FBIS DAILY REPORT

MIDDLE EAST & SOUTH ASIA REVIEW

22 OCTOBER 1984

Iran-Iraq War

Land Battles — Both sides reported further successes in the battle for control of the Meymak heights. Tehran radio claimed that Iranian forces repulsed repeated Iraqi counterattacks, but an Iraqi source cited by INA stated that in a successful attack on 20 October Iraqi troops recaptured all positions lost to the Iranians earlier. As for the losses on both sides, Tehran radio said over 3,600 Iraqis have been killed or wounded in the Meymak fighting while an Iraqi military communique broadcast by Baghdad Voice of the Masses radio announced that over 2,000 Iranians have been killed. An Iraqi spokesman cited by INA denied Tehran radio's claim that three Iraqi aircraft were downed by Iranian antiaircraft fire on 19 October. Although IRNA said over 50 civilians were killed or injured in Iraqi air raids on nearby towns, the Iraqi communiques spoke only of air raids on Iranian military positions. Meanwhile, Iraqi President Saddam Husayn visited the II Army's front line and issued directives to ensure a "decisive victory," INA announced.

Tanker Attack — Two people were killed aboard a Panamanian ship which was attacked by an unidentified aircraft east of Qatar on 19 October, Lloyds of London announced in a statement reported by AFP. The attack occurred in an area where Iranian aircraft have made previous attacks, Hong Kong radio noted. Tehran radio reported the attack without comment, but monitored Iraqi sources were not observed to mention it.

GCC Naval Command

The defense paper approved by the GCC foreign and defense ministers' meeting included "among the urgent defensive plans" the establishment of a joint GCC naval command based at Al-Jubayl, Saudi Arabia, Kuwait's *AL-SIYASAH* stated, citing a "well-informed Gulf source." The command will employ sophisticated warning systems and air and sea patrols of the Gulf waters. Any plane violating the airspace above its specially determined shipping lanes will be fired on, the source warned.

Iran-Turkey

The Turkish interior minister arrived in Iran to discuss "terrorists" entering Turkey from Iran and other "issues of mutual interest," as well as to deliver a message from President Kenan Evren to President 'Ali Khamene'i, Ankara radio disclosed. However, according to IRNA, Prime Minister Mir Hoseyn Musavi declared that Turkey's proposal for joint border security is "not in the interest of relations between the two countries," and he went on to say that Iran's internal security affairs are its "own business" and that Turkey's security problems "have nothing to do with" Iran. Meanwhile, Tehran radio cited a Majlis deputy's warning to Turkey against entering Iraqi territory "under the pretext of security cover in the frontier regions but in fact to strengthen Saddam's regime."

Iraq-USSR

During a 1-day visit to Moscow, Foreign Minister Tariq 'Aziz held official talks with Soviet Foreign Minister Andrey Gromyko on "relations of friendship between the two countries, the situation in the region, and the continued Iranian aggression against Iraq," INA revealed, adding that Gromyko also hosted a luncheon for 'Aziz attended by high-ranking government and military officials.

Syria-USSR

A careful reading of the Syrian-Soviet joint statement on President Hafiz al-Asad's visit to Moscow would reveal "how identical are the two countries' viewpoints on the hot issues of the region and the world," Radio Monte Carlo asserted in a dispatch from Damascus. Noting that the communique calls for "intensifying the firm denunciation of the Camp David accords and the policy of separate deals and all current attempts to reactive and resurrect them," the radio pointed out that the meaning of "all current attempts" is very clear, even though used diplomatically.

Officials who went to Moscow with Al-Asad claim that "the consultation with the Soviet leadership was inevitable because Syrian-Soviet relations have risen to the level of strategic relations," the radio noted. Moreover, Damascus officials categorically deny that there were difficulties or disagreements between the sides during the visit, it added, citing agreements made on more military support, increased economic cooperation, and the PLO.

Lebanon

Security Situation — The authorities in Beirut intensified security measures following threats against French interests and after receiving information that three booby-trapped vehicles were roaming the capital, Ihdin Radio of Free and Unified Lebanon reported. In Ba'alabakk, Shi'ite leader Husayn al-Musawi issued a statement denying that his Islamic Amal group was responsible for the 20 September attack on the U.S. Embassy, and warning the United States against taking retaliatory action against the organization, according to Jerusalem radio.

Political Developments — Speaking at a Lebanese Communist Party anniversary ceremony, Progressive Socialist Party (PSP) leader Walid Junblatt stressed that his forces will not lay down their weapons but will increase their armament until they are assured that "partnership" is achieved in all spheres, particularly the Army. In his remarks, broadcast by the clandestine Voice of the Mountain radio, the PSP leader criticized the government for failing to implement its reform program, and he warned that he will not participate in "a new Al-Wazzan-like government." Junblatt subsequently left for Moscow via Damascus, according to Beirut radio. The Lebanese Communist Party anniversary celebration was also attended by Syrian Ba'th Party Assistant

Secretary General 'Abdallah al-Ahmar and Soviet official Karen Brutents, Voice of the Mountain radio noted.

As for the Lebanese Government's position toward the UNIFIL commander's proposal for talks on security arrangements, Prime Minister Rashid Karami stressed that Lebanon does not object to holding talks under UN supervision to bring about Israel's withdrawal, but he categorically rejected any "direct" talks with the Israelis, Voice of Lebanon radio reported.

Israel

Lebanon Policy — The Alignment's willingness to reach an arrangement in Lebanon under UNIFIL's auspices is "unacceptable to us," Industry and Trade Minister Ari'el Sharon declared in a Jerusalem radio interview. Noting that Sharon raised his criticism of the prime minister's policy toward UNIFIL during the 21 October Cabinet meeting, IDF radio said the Cabinet will hold a comprehensive discussion of the Lebanese issue on 28 October when it will decide Israel's stance on withdrawal.

Jerusalem Move — The Police Affairs Ministry was moved to the government compound in East Jerusalem on 21 October, Jerusalem radio disclosed.

PLO

Representatives of six Palestinian factions will meet on 25 October to finalize a date for the PNC session, according to PLO sources in Tunis cited by the *JORDAN TIMES*. Although PLO Executive Committee Chairman Yasir 'Arafat announced that the PNC session will be held in Amman or Baghdad, a DFLP spokesman in Damascus stated that Algiers is the only possible venue for the meeting, the Jordanian newspaper added.

Jordan-UK Arms Talks

British Defense Secretary Michael Heseltine arrived in Jordan to discuss "possible" British arms sales, the *JORDAN TIMES* reported citing British Embassy officials. Heseltine is visiting at the invitation of the Armed Forces commander-in-chief as part of Jordan's "high-level contacts with East as well as West European countries," the paper explained, after observing that Britain has Javelin missiles, the alternative to the U.S. Stinger Missiles which Washington decided not to sell to Jordan.

Jordan-Egypt

In a speech at a banquet in honor of visiting Jordanian Crown Prince Hasan, Egyptian Prime Minister Kamal Hasan 'Ali cautioned against letting inter-Arab differences be a justification for Arabs to side with foreigners, Cairo radio reported. In his speech, according to both Cairo and Amman radios, Prince Hasan affirmed that urgent action is needed to resolve the Arab-Israeli conflict. Later, Prince Hasan met with President Husni Mubarak, who subsequently instructed Egyptian Government ministers to provide every opportunity for political, economic, and cultural cooperation with Jordan, MENA related.

Egyptian Military Production

Talks in Cairo between Egyptian Defense Minister Abu Ghazalah and his Italian counterpart Giovanni Spadolini dealt with Middle East and African issues as well as the two nations' co-production of naval supplies, missiles, electronics, and helicopters, Rome's ANSA revealed.

Earlier, the Egyptian minister of state for war production announced that new weapons manufactured in Egypt will be displayed at the international arms fair in Cairo 10-14 November, including tactical missile launchers, aircraft armed with guided rockets, and antiaircraft artillery, MENA reported.

Mitterrand Talks in Algeria

Both the French presidential spokesman and Algerian foreign minister termed the talks during French President Francois Mitterrand's 8-hour visit to Algeria a "success," AFP disclosed. The talks, which included a private conversation with Algerian President Chadli Bendjedid, were "useful," particularly in light of developments in the Maghreb, the Middle East and Africa, Algiers radio asserted, for they permitted a "better perception of the concerns of each country."

Libya-USSR

Serious talks are under way between the Soviet Union and Libya on cooperation in the construction of Libya's first electronuclear power station, Tripoli radio reported.

DRA

Afghan Embassy sources said French television reporter Jacques Abouchar can appeal his 18-year jail sentence for "illegally entering Afghanistan with an armed group," AFP reported.

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AL-QABAS Reports 'Arafat To Visit Moscow

GF191450 Kuwait AL-QABAS in Arabic 18 Oct 84 pp 1, 18

[Dispatch by 'Amid al-Shanti]

[Excerpt] *AL-QABAS* has learned from authoritative Palestinian sources that [PLO Executive Committee Chairman] Yasir 'Arafat will visit Moscow this month leading a Fatah Central Committee delegation.

'Arafat To Arrive in Jordan Next Few Days

JN220658 Amman SAWT AL-SHA'B in Arabic 22 Oct 84 p 1

[Text] Amman, AFP — Khalil al-Wazir, deputy commander in chief of the Palestinian revolution forces, has said that PLO Executive Committee Chairman Yasir 'Arafat will arrive in Jordan in the next few days within his current tour of a number of Arab countries. 'Arafat will hold talks with His Majesty King Husayn and senior Jordanian officials on developments in the Palestinian arena, particularly efforts to convene the PNC.

'Arafat on PNC Meeting; Relations With Jordan, Syria

PM191455 Brussels LE SOIR in French 13-14 Oct 84 pp 1,3

[Interview with PLO leader Yasir 'Arafat by Michel Dubuisson in Tunis 11 October]

[Text] Tunis, 11 Oct — Confident when he spoke of the prospects of holding a PNC meeting and of his relations with Jordan; irritated when speaking of U.S. policy; disappointed when discussing Europe; severe in his criticism of those who, in his view, are not shouldering their responsibilities, Yasir 'Arafat, interviewed by *LE SOIR* in Tunis, was grave when he spoke of Syria and of the "official threats" which the latter has made against the PLO and its leadership.

During the long interview which he granted us, Yasir 'Arafat — accompanied by PLO Political Department Chief Faruq Qaddumi — abandoned his cutting remarks when discussing the Syrian attitude. It was then that he used the considered tone suited to serious matters:

"The mediation between us and the Syrians undertaken by Algiers and Aden," he explained, "has unfortunately reached a deadlock." "But in the past 2 days, Syria has stepped up its attacks, making official threats against the PLO and its leadership, through its press, its SANA agency, and its radio. We have informed the mediators of this." 'Arafat explained that, in addition to Algeria, South Yemen, Saudi Arabia, the other Gulf countries, Tunisia, North Yemen, and the USSR "are doing their best." He said he was particularly satisfied with his two meetings with [Soviet Foreign Minister] Gromyko in East Berlin last weekend.

[Dubuisson] What is the cause of this antagonism?

['Arafat] We cannot accept interference in Palestinian decisions, which must be taken in complete independence. It all began during the Lebanese war in 1982, when on 10 June the Syrians accepted a cease-fire (with Israel) and we continued the fight ...]

Despite the persistence of Damascus' attitude, Yasir 'Arafat is optimistic about the meeting of the PNC.

[Dubuisson] When will it take place?

['Arafat] No date has yet been fixed, but it will be soon.

[Dubuisson] Will all the PNC members be there?

['Arafat] It is a Palestinian meeting. Those who feel they are Palestinian will go. Those who are puppets of certain intelligence services will not be there...

[Dubuisson] What if some people boycott this session?

['Arafat] It will not be a tragedy. It will not be the first time. Remember the rejection front (rejecting any political solution).

In short, 'Arafat thinks the Palestinians are entitled to have an opposition.

[Dubuisson] But in Tripoli there were Palestinians fighting you too...

['Arafat] Yes, and in Vietnam, some Vietnamese fought alongside the Americans...

As for the talks with King Husayn of Jordan, 'Arafat thinks they were "fruitful." They will continue, and joint committees have been formed to discuss specific questions with a view to the creation of confederal relations between a Palestinian state and Jordan.

A Cornered Tiger

The "U.S. Administration's stupid policy" exasperates 'Arafat. "Because of it, Israel is pursuing its occupation and aggression against the Palestinian people and the Arab nation," he said.

[Dubuisson] Will there be changes after the U.S. presidential elections?

He does not expect any. "And," he said, "I have a right to ask why Reagan attacked me personally and the PLO in two election speeches. This is racism! How long will it last? You cannot keep a tiger cornered forever..."

He recalled the many instances in which the United States has had contacts with the PLO: "But today they say that it is impossible to talk with the Palestinians and that they are members of an international terrorist organization. Nobody has the right to say that about us! It is racism," he repeated.

The Europeans' Silence

The PLO leader had just had talks lasting over 1 hour with our foreign minister, Tindemans, discussing in particular means of implementing a just and comprehensive solution in the Near East, and a possible European contribution. "It was a fruitful and constructive meeting. He is a man who inspires respect and confidence," he told us.

With regard to the EEC's role, Yasir 'Arafat naturally recalled Europe's 'historical and moral responsibilities" in the Mediterranean area. But he soon abandoned generalities: "Israel is Europe's child, but this baby has become a monster. It must be stopped, otherwise there will be a terrible disaster...Israel's prestige has hit an all-time low, but that does not prevent it from enjoying European and U.S. support. Rather than stopping the Israelis, Europe is rejecting us Palestinians. How can it do this? The Venice declaration was made 4 years ago, and since then there has been nothing. Even after Beirut, what you Europeans have done is a scandal. At the Dublin meeting, the Near East was not even mentioned. Does this mean that Europe approves of aggression, occupation, the confiscation of lands, and so forth? It is unbelievable, unbelievable!

[Dubuisson] Did you say that to Mr Tindemans?

['Arafat] It is not for me to reveal to you the content of our talks!

The fate of the Palestinian refugees in Lebanon "after the Beirut disaster" worries 'Arafat: "It is a wretched situation — abductions, murders, arrests, especially in the south, and unemployment. We are not allowed to receive drugs or doctors for our hospitals, not even from foreign countries. I am asking for aid especially for southern Lebanon and also for the occupied territories."

There are disappointments and worries. But 'Arafat also found reasons for optimism: "We are proud of the absence of confessionalism in our ranks. We are proud of our democracy, the transformation of refugees into freedom fighters, and of our people's very high level of education." In this connection he cited a study by *THE WALL STREET JOURNAL.*

AL-QABAS: Anti-'Arafat Assassination Groups to Europe

GF191600 Kuwait AL-QABAS in Arabic 18 Oct 84 p 1

[Dispatch from Tunis]

[Text] *AL-QABAS* has learned from sources closely associated with the PLO leadership in Tunis that reliable information acquired by the director of the office of PLO chief Yasir 'Arafat indicates that Ahmad Jibril, the secretary general of the Popular Front for the Liberation of Palestine, the General Command [PFLP-GC], has begun to coordinate efforts with Abu Musa [Sa'id Musa Muragha] in order to dispatch armed groups to Europe to liquidate pro-'Arafat Palestinian personalities. The PLO office in Tunis has distributed secret instructions to the PLO offices in Europe calling for strict security and alertness.

Further Reportage on Convocation of PNC

'Arafat Sees Nov Session

GF191110 Doha QNA in Arabic 0817 GMT 19 Oct 84

[Text] Abu Dhabi, 19 Oct (QNA) — PLO Executive Committee Chairman Yasir 'Arafat said the PNC will convene its 17th session in November, but did not specify the date because of certain technical procedures.

In a statement published by *AL-ITTIHAD* today, 'Arafat said that the PLO has received invitations from three countries prepared to host the PNC session but added that the meeting will be held in Iraq or Jordan. He indicated that the aim of his present tour is to inform the Arab leaders of the decision to convene the PNC in November. 'Arafat affirmed that 254 PNC members have agreed to attend the meeting in November which is more than the number required for convening the PNC.

'Arafat described the recent Palestinian meeting in Tunis as very important because it was attended by personalities representing the Palestinians and the popular organizations. He indicated that these organizations have 90 seats in the PNC.

In a reference to the statements by PNC Speaker Khalid al-Fahum that the new session of the PNC wili not be convened because the time is not appropriate, 'Arafat said that it is the legitimate channels that decide when the PNC convenes and that it is these channels that have elected the speaker. He said that the PNC is convened at the request of a quarter of the members and in the place and at the time that (?the members decide on).

'Arafat described the Palestinian revolution as an impregnable barrier in the face of all the continual conspiracies which aim at liquidating it. He pointed out that the continuation of these conspiracies springs from the fact that the revolution is the living witness to all these conspiracies. During a meeting he held last night with members of the Palestinian community in Abu Dhabi, 'Arafat warned of the seriousness of the conspiracy to liquidate the Palestinian revolution and to end its existence in the entire Middle East. He pointed out that Algeria did not refuse to host the PNC meeting, in accordance with the provisions of the Algiers-Aden agreement, but it did not (?extend an invitation to us either) [words indistinct].

'Arafat affirmed that he had received an invitation from Iranian Majlis Speaker Hashemi-Rafsanjani to convene the PNC in Iran. He indicated that he still had the letter. 'Arafat arrived in Abu Dhabi from Sanaa last night on a 2-day visit, as part of a tour of a number of countries in the area.

DFLP Official Cited on PNC

JN211829 Baghdad Voice of PLO in Arabic 1619 GMT 21 Oct 84

[Text] The Democratic Front for the Liberation of Palestine [DFLP] has stressed that safeguarding the PLO's existence is a primary national issue. At a news conference he held at the DFLP Central Information Headquarters, Brother Salih Ra'fat, a DFLP Political Bureau member, announced the decisions that

have been adopted during the meetings of the DFLP Central Committee. He said that many threats are directed against the PLO's unity and existence and that the danger is currently escalating. This can be seen by the several attempts by various sides to liquidate the Palestine question.

Salih Ra'fat stressed that protecting the PLO from the dangers of division and fragmentation is a direct and pressing task. Salih Ra'fat stressed the DFLP's resolute commitment to the Aden-Algiers agreement, including all its provisions, because it is a good basis for settling the current crisis in the Palestinian arena, restoring the PLO's unity, and safeguarding its national and anti-imperialist-Zionist course.

Brother Salih Ra'fat said that the DFLP stresses the need for continuous action to guarantee the convocation of the 17th PNC session as soon as possible and on the basis of the Aden-Algiers agreement. He also stressed the need for calling on the friendly and fraternal forces to exert efforts to facilitate the convocation of the PNC in order to end the state of paralysis imposed on the PLO's institutions, particularly the PLO Executive Committee, the Central Council, and the PNC. He also stressed the need to reactivate these institutions on the basis of the agreement.

Aden VOP Supports Meeting

GF210428 Aden Voice of Palestine in Arabic 1820 GMT 20 Oct 84

[Unattributed commentary]

[Text] In 1939, the Arab rulers call on the leaders of the Palestinian revolution to stop the armed struggle which then was waged throughout Palestine against British occupation. The response to this call was an end to the revolution.

Now, in 1984, history repeats itself. The Palestinian revolution leadership is facing a similar position resulting from the pressure aimed at preventing the convening of the PNC. The fate of the Palestinian revolution will be decided by this position. The answer to this problem is known to three parties. One of these parties is the Fatah leadership, the backbone of the Palestinian revolution and its basic striking force, which enjoys wide popular support by all classes of the Palestinian people. It also represents the actual leadership of the PLO, which succeeded in making the PLO, under its leadership, a popular Palestinian force representing the struggle and political legitimacy. It brought under its banner all the patriotic factions with all their differences and contradictions.

Every Palestinian citizen, wherever he lives in exile, psychologically belongs to this leadership. The Fatah leadership, considering its influence on the Palestinian issues and in the PLO leadership, bears first responsibility for taking the decisive and difficult decision — the decision to call for the convocation of the PNC on the basis of a Palestinian will that can overcome all surrounding Arab pressures and all the Palestinian tools, whose movement is controlled by other fingers. From this responsible position the Fatah leadership is required to put an end to the existing state of hesitation and to the [word indistinct] of Arab mediations so that these mediations do not become a part of the state of paralysis and an effective means.

Khalil al-Wazir Arrives in Amman 20 Oct

JN210743 Amman AL-RA'Y in Arabic 21 Oct 84 p 1

[Text] Khalil al-Wazir [Abu Jihad], deputy commander in chief of the Palestinian revolution forces, arrived in Amman yesterday after taking part in the Fatah Central Committee meetings in Tunis and meeting with a number of Palestinian officials.

Activities of Various Palestinian Groups Reported

JN210925 Amman JORDAN TIMES in English 21 Oct 84 p 1, 3

[By Lamis K. Andoni in Tunis]

[Excerpts] A high-level delegation representing the PLO is expected to visit Amman soon to discuss the latest developments in the Palestinian arena and Jordanian-Palestinian coordination, well-informed PLO sources said here Saturday. The delegation, which will include PLO Executive Committee member Mahmud 'Abbas [Abu Mazin] and Khalid al-Hasan [Abu al-Sa'id], member of the Central Committee of Fatah, the biggest commando movement within the PLO, will also brief Jordanian leaders on the outcome of intensive inter-PLO talks here during the past two weeks on convening the much-delayed 17th session of the PNC, the Palestinian parliament-in-exile, the sources said. The sources also revealed that representatives of six PLO factions will meet on Thursday, October 25, to finalise a date for convening the PNC.

The report of the impending visit of the PLO delegation to Amman coincided with a statement in Doha by PLO Chairman Yasir 'Arafat that the PNC will be called to session either in Amman or the Iraqi capital of Baghdad. Mr 'Arafat also told a news conference Saturday in the Qatari capital that the PLO has sent a written assessment of its concept of a Jordanian-Palestinian confederation and was awaiting the Kingdom's own assessment. [sentence as published]

The sources in Tunis said Saturday that Thursday's meeting is expected to be attended by Fatah, the "Democratic Front" — which groups the Popular Front for the Liberation of Palestine [PFLP], the Democratic Front for the Liberation of Palestine [DFLP], the Palestine Liberation Front [PLF], and the Palestinian Communist Party [PCP] — and the Arab Liberation Front. All factions with the exception of the PFLP have agreed in principle to convene the PNC before the end of November 1984, the sources added. PFLP leader George Habash was insisting that a "comprehensive Palestinian national dialogue" be held to settle all inter-PLO differences before the PNC is called into session, they said. Dr Habash and DFLP leader Nayif Hawatimah were in Aden Saturday to discuss PLO affairs with the South Yemeni leadership. The sources said that the DFLP, the PLF and the PCP have also expressed reservations about convening the PNC in any Arab country other than Algeria.

Algeria had initially agreed to host the PNC, but it is now reluctant to allow the PNC session to be held in the country

because of Syrian opposition. However, reports reaching here from Algiers indicated Saturday that the Algerian Government has expressed its readiness to host the PNC if all signatories to an organisational and political agreement reached between Fatah and the "Democratic Alliance" agree to attend the session. Thursday's meeting will discuss only the date on which the Council be convened and not the venue, according to the sources in the Tunisian capital.

A DFLP spokesman in Damascus Saturday ruled out the possibility of the PNC being convened in Amman or Baghdad and said Algiers was the only possible meeting place.

The spokesman, Salih Ra'fat member of the organisation's Politburo, also reaffirmed the DFLP's stand that the PNC be convened this year despite an assertion by PNC Speaker Khalid al-Fahum last week that the Council session may not be held until early 1985. "In our view in the DFLP, the Council will meet by the end of this year despite the veto by certain Palestinian quarters," Mr Ra'fat told a news conference. However, the PLO leadership in Tunis is awaiting official word from Algeria on whether the Algerian leadership is willing to host the PNC or not before deciding on an alternate venue.

Dr Habash and PFLP-General Command leader Ahmad Jibril, one of the staunchest Syrian-backed opponents of Mr 'Arafat, are expected to arrive in Algeria in the next few days to hold talks with Algerian President Chadli Benjedid on the current rift within the PLO, according to the sources in Tunis.

Reagan Acknowledges Demise of Plan for Middle East

LD200916 Algiers Voice of Palestine in Arabic 1702 GMT 19 Oct 84

[Excerpts] Under the heading: Not the Making of Washington Alone, the main PLO paper *FILISTIN AL-THAWRAH* writes: The U.S. secretary of state is talking about a new initiative to be announced by President Ronald Reagan after his reelection to the Presidency. In the statement, which gives glad tidings about the initiative to be announced soon, Shultz does not forget to say that Washington will welcome any positive Soviet effort. Reagan's national security adviser has said something similar before Shultz. His statement left room for one to believe that Reagan will exercise pressure on the Zionist entity to make it agree to some concessions that will facilitate embarking on new peace talks. These statements come at the height of the Presidential election campaigns. It seems that Reagan, who is facing strong opposition to his reelection, is hoping to gain a large percentage of votes that would give him a mandate to continue his policies of recent years, policies which have aroused a campaign of wide criticism against him. Among these policies is the U.S. policy in Lebanon and its failure; the Reagan initiative, which was announced on the eve of the PLO fighters's withdrawal from Beirut 2 years ago; and the very intransigent stands vis-a-vis the Soviet Union and other countries of the socialist bloc.

A statement on a new initiative to be announced by Reagan in reality constitutes an official announcement of the death of Reagan's previous initiative of 1982, which actually died after it was rejected by Palestinians and Israelis for contradictory reasons. Its death was confirmed when the Jordanians also believed in its futility. It is irrelevant whether the clauses of the new initiative are better or worse than the previous one. The mere acknowledgement of a need for a new initiative together with an acknowledgement of the importance of a Soviet role in the Middle East means that Washington believes that it is impossible for it to be the sole power in the Middle East.

Now we are facing an indirect U.S. acknowledgement of the error of the policy of threats directed against the Soviet Union and its friends in national liberation movements. This is a valuable acknowledgement, especially for those who have been making their calculations on the basis that the United States is the master of the world and maker of destinies. The failure of Reagan's initiative, which did not convince even U.S. friends in the Middle East; the U.S. (?retreat); and the impotence of the intransigent line in the face of the Soviet Union clearly indicate that the United States could be [word indistinct], its aggressive policy could be foiled, and that it could be made to behave in accordance with its true weight in the international balance of forces, and not on the basis of the behavior of its [word indistinct] rulers who have dreams of dominating peoples and undermining the prestige of the socialist bloc and its allies in the world revolutionary movement.

Resistance Operations in South Lebanon Reported

Near 'Ayn al-Hulwah

JN191725 Baghdad Voice of PLO in Arabic 1619 GMT 19 Oct 84

[Text] The Palestinian and Lebanese nationalist resistance men detonated a high-explosive, remote-controlled charge near the so-called national guard headquarters near the Palestinian 'Ayn al-Hulwah camp last night. The explosion killed or wounded several members of the agent militias. A Zionist military spokesman admitted the operation but declined to mention losses. He said that his forces and the elements of the so-called national guard cordoned off the 'Ayn al-Hulwah camp, prevented entry to and exit from the camp, launched a large-scale search campaign, and arrested a large number of Palestinian and Lebanese citizens on the pretext of their connection with the operation.

Near Kafr Hunah, Tyre

JN211742 Baghdad Voice of PLO in Arabic 1619 GMT 21 Oct 84

[Text] The Palestinian and Lebanese nationalist resistance men have escalated their heroic operations against the personnel and vehciles of the Zionist occupation forces and the militias of the so-called army of southern Lebanon, inflicting on them more losses in life and equipment.

A group of the resistance men attacked a Zionist military patrol yesterday while it was passing through the town of Kafr Hunah in occupied southern Lebanon. The attack was carried out with machine guns and rockets and destroyed a large Zionist military truck and killed or wounded all the occupants of the truck.

The resistance men detonated a high-explosive, remote-controlled charge yesterday while a Zionist military patrol was passing on the road near the entrance of the Palestinian camp of Al-Rashidiyah in the district of Tyre in occupied southern Lebanon. The explosion destroyed a Zionist military vehicle, damaged another one, and killed or injured several Zionist soldiers.

Another group of resistance men used machine guns and rockets yesterday to attack a Zionist military patrol while it was passing near the Al-Zahrani River in occupied southern Lebanon. A Zionist military vehicle was destroyed, and all its occupants were either killed or wounded in the attack. Another group of the resistance men attacked a Zionist military position near the Al-Awwali River yesterday. Several Zionist soldiers were killed or wounded in the attack.

Another group of resistance men attacked a Zionist military patrol while it was passing near the northern entrance of Tyre the day before yesterday. The attack was carried out with machine guns and rockets and destroyed a Zionist military jeep and killed or wounded all its occupants.

A Zionist military spokesman admitted the daring operations but, at usual, declined to mention his losses. He said that his forces launched immediate large-scale search campaigns and arrested a large number of Palestinian and Lebanese citizens on the pretext of their connection with the resistance men, who withdrew safely to their bases.

Yesterday, the resistance men also bombed a shop whose owner collaborates with the Zionist invasion forces in the town of Duwayr in occupied southern Lebanon.

Syrian Arrests in Damascus Camp Protested

JN211812 Baghdad Voice of PLO in Arabic 1619 GMT 21 Oct 84

[Text] The Popular Palestinian Committees in Al-Yarmuk camp in Damascus have sent cables of protest to the Syrian authorities calling on them to stop the pursit and arrest campaigns that their organs of repression are carrying out against Palestinian citizens. These cables also mentioned the brutal torture of thePalestinian citizens in the cellars of Syrian intelligence. Reports from Damascus say that a state of maximum alert prevailed in the Al-Yarmuk camp throughout the past week.

Two Arab League Committees Postpone Meetings

JN191728 Baghdad INA in Arabic 1700 GMT 19 Oct 84

[Text] Tunis, 19 Oct (INA) — It was reported here today that the meetings of two Arab ministerial committees — the Committee on the Arab-Israeli Conflict and International Relations, and the Committee on the Amendment of the Arab League Charter and Regulations have been postponed until further notice. The meetings were scheduled to begin today and tomorrow respectively. Arab League sources said that the meetings were postponed in order to allow the ministers who are members of the committees to attend these meetings personally.

It is noteworthy that the Committee on the Arab-Israeli Conflict and International Relations includes Jordan, the UAE, Syria, Palestine, Lebanon and both Yemens; and the Committee on the Amendment of the Arab League Charter includes Iraq, Somalia, Saudi Arabia, Syria, Lebanon, Morocco, Sudan, and Tunisia.

SPA: ICO'S Chatti Returns to Jeddah From Tunisia

LD201926 Riyadh SPA in English 1240 GMT 20 Oct 84

[Text] Jeddah, Oct 20, SPA — Islamic Conference Organisation Secretary General Habib Chatti returned to Jeddah today from a visit to Tunisia during which he had talks with Tunisian President Habib Bourguiba on cooperation between the Organisation and Tunisia as well as current Islamic issues. Prior to his visit to Tunisia, Chatti also toured the United States and Italy. While in New York, he attended the 39th session of the U.N. General Assembly and a coordinating meeting the Islamic foreign ministers. In Italy, he attended in Rimini a symposium on Euro-Arab relations.

Further on Reaction to Oil Price Reductions

Emergency OPEC Session Scheduled

LD201119 Kuwait KUNA in English 0942 GMT 20 Oct 84

[By Shamel Khayri]

[Text] Kuwait, Oct 20 (KUNA) — Six oil ministers in member-states of the Organisation of Petroleum Exporting Countries (OPEC) will hold an emergency meeting in Geneva next Monday to consult on means of facing the current crisis of oil (?pricing) Gulf oil sources said here Saturday.

According to the sources, oil ministers of Kuwait, Saudi Arabia, Libya, Algeria, Venezuela and the UAE, possibly joined by Indonesian oil minister, will hold a crisis meeting in Geneva on Monday to follow up developments in the world oil market, appearing to be heading towards a major crisis.

The crisis meeting comes in advance of an emergency consultative conference which the 13-member OPEC oil ministers had tentatively set for October 29 in Geneva to discuss the recent threat posed to the oil pricing structure following Britain and Norway's step to reduce prices of their crude.

The sources said that Monday's crisis talks will reflect on the impact of recent price reductions announced by such non-OPEC countries as Norway and Britain which had respectively slashed their North Sea crude by 1.35 and 1.6 dollars per barrel as of last Wednesday.

The six oil ministers, the sources added, will try to avoid a price war and reach a common ground, prior to the OPEC meeting, for defending the organisation's present benchmark price of 29 dollars a barrel against any possible collapse.

The talks will certainly cover Nigeria's surprise decision of reducing its crude price by two dollars, as of last Thursday, in view of the similarity of the type produced to that of the North Sea, according to the sources.

The outcome of the Geneva talks wil be put before the full OPEC meeting on October 29 in a bid to agree on a common oil policy in support of the organisation's stance and its previous resolutions, the sources explained.

They indicated that the six OPEC oil ministers will further consult with non-OPEC oil producers to reach a "gentleman's agreement" between the two sides which can defuse the situation, avert a possible price war and overcome the present oil crisis.

Indonesia To Skip Session

NC210942 Paris AFP in English 0931 GMT 21 Oct 84

[Text] Jakarta, Oct 21 (AFP) — Indonesian Oil Minister Professor Subroto said today he would not attend the Organization of Petroleum Exporting Countries (OPEC) meeting to be held in Geneva tomorrow.

He told AGENCE FRANCE-PRESSE that he had no plans to be in Geneva tomorrow but would attend a special OPEC meeting in Geneva on October 29 to review the oil situation following last week's price cuts by Norway, Britain and Nigeria.

Indonesia is a member of the 13-nation OPEC group.

Mr. Subroto said yesterday that he deplored the price reductions and hoped that Nigeria, an OPEC member, would review its decision.

He said he saw no reason for OPEC to reduce the 29 dollar per barrel reference price it set in March 1983.

Indonesia, which exports about 800,000 barrels of its OPEC-determined output of 1.3 million barrels of oil a day, derives 65 percent of its income from oil and gas.

Yamani Comments on Consultations

LD201048 Riyadh SPA in Arabic 1000 GMT 20 Oct 84

[Text] Riyadh, 20 Oct (SPA) — The minister of petroleum and mineral resources, Ahmad Zaki Yamani, has stated that the Organization of Petroleum Exporting Countries, OPEC, now is carrying out consultations and contacts among the member states regarding the increases [as received] by some countries of their oil prices.

The minister stated to SPA that there is no real problem facing OPEC which would demand its reduction of price. He stressed that OPEC can cooperate with other producing countries outside the organization to protect the present level of prices and to impose its presence once again in the market. This is what the organization is trying to prove in its forthcoming meetings and in the preliminary meetings that will proceed it.

Yamani on Price Reductions

LD201542 Vienna OPECNA in English 1038 GMT 20 Oct 84

[Text] London, 20 Oct. 84 (OPECNA) — Shaykh Ahmad Zaki Yamani, Saudi Arabian minister of petroleum and mineral resources, has expressed "strong confidence" that OPEC and those non-OPEC countries will defend the present OPEC official price.

"We will prove this very soon," he told the *MIDDLE-EAST ECONOMIC SURVEY* (MEES).

Yamani said the decisions of the British National Oil Corporation (BNOC) and STATOIL of Norway took him by surprise, "just as most industry executives and maybe even some of the BNOC board members were taken by surprise."

He added that he failed to understand the real motives behind the decisions "and I am still trying to find out".

Shaykh 'Ali Khalifa al-Sabah, Kuwaiti minister of oil, also told MEES the North Sea price cuts will not force OPEC to reduce prices.

"By restricting our production, we can counteract the present market weakness very easily, particularly in view of the expected increase in demand with the onset of winter in November and December," he added.

He said he expected the market to strengthen "quite soon to the point where those who have cut their prices will restore them to the previous levels."

MEES also reported that the Norwegian and British decisions were surprising even to top oil industry executives. A major international oil company managing director expressed astonishment as the "price panic will probably turn out to be as short-lived as it was ill-judged."

It said Saudi Arabia and other major oil-exporting countries were preparing for deep production cuts to stabilize the market.

"Given a surge of winter demand lurking in the wings, a decisive market turnaround must confidently be envisaged," the publication stated.

Bahraini Minister Discusses Prices

GF201410 Manama WAKH in Arabic 1200 GMT 20 Oct 84

[Text] Manama, 20 Oct (WAKH) — Yusuf Ahmad al-Shirawi, minister of development and industry and acting minister of state for Cabinet affairs, returned to Manama today from Riyadh after a 1-day visit to Saudi Arabia.

On his return, Al-Shirawi stated that his visit to Riyadh was within the framework of continuing consultations with the Saudi minister of petroleum and mineral affairs, Shaykh Ahmad Zaki Yamani.

Al-Shirawi said that he discussed with Shaykh Yamani oil relations between Bahrain and Saudi Arabia.

The minister of development and industry praised the integral oil relations between Saudi Arabia and Bahrain, particularly in the fields of oil production and refining and other joint oil ventures. He said that he also discussed the sudden changes in crude oil prices in the world markets.

Al-Shirawi said: The visit was a favourable opportunity to discuss this subject and the possible stand we may take with regard to this sudden change in prices.

OAPEC Head on Reductions

LD211002 Kuwait KUNA in Arabic 0929 GMT 21 Oct 84

[Excerpt] Kuwait, 21 Oct (KUNA) — The secretary general of OAPEC — the Organization of Arab Petroleum Exporting Countries — Dr Ali 'Utayqah, has warned the oil-exporting states of the danger of slipping into an oil price war between themselves, and urged them to defend their current price structure.

Dr 'Utayqah said in an interview with KUNA today here that the outbreak of any oil price war between oil-producing states, whether they are members of OPEC or not, would be destructive to them and to the oil-consumer states alike, and to [words indistinct]. He drew attention to the fact that it was not in the interest of the OPEC member states to go along with the reductions in the prices of North Sea oil announced by Norway and Britain less than a week ago, or to engage in oneupmanship over them.

He stressed that the question of defending the price structure is possible if the member states acted in solidarity and if they made the necessary adjustments in their oil offer and to the price differential among the prices of the various oils. He mentioned that the best available and least harmful solution is to reduce the ceiling of OPEC present production amounting to 17.5 million barrels per day. Dr 'Utayqah stressed that the normal thing for OPEC is to protect the structure of its prices. He expressed his confidence that OPEC is capable of doing so. He said we expect the members at the forthcoming meeting to reach an agreement that will strengthen its solidarity and consolidate confidence in the stability of oil and energey markets.

Dr 'Utayqah expressed his displeasure with the decisions by Norway and Britain and said: "Regretfully, the prices of the North Sea continue to lead world oil prices to drop."

He added that oil prices will rise in the long run and not the opposite in view of the continued rise in production costs for all other energy sources. Dr 'Utayqah praised the move of OPEC countries in contacting the oil-producing countries outside OPEC, whether developing or industrial countries. He said this is proof of OPEC's conviction of the soundness of this trend.

Further on Nigerian Reduction of Oil Prices

Reductions Take 'Immediate Effect'

LD191303 Vienna OPECNA in English 1150 GMT 19 Oct 84

[By John Ndukauba, OPECNA correspondent]

[Text] Lagos, 19 oct. 84 (OPECNA) — Nigeria late Thursday announced reductions in the price of its crude oil in the wake of reduction by Britain and Norway which produce similar blends of crude.

At a special news conference, petroleum and energy minister, Prof. Tam David-West, said the price reductions ranging from one to two dollars, were with "immediate effect."

He said the reductions became necessary "to arrest a fall in our oil production and a drastic and erratic decline in our oil revenues."

David-West said in a "market that had become highly competitive, failure to take appropriate action would immediately have led to losing the country's oil customers and that would have put the nation's interest in jeopardy," adding that Nigeria could hardly afford such a "costly risk."

"Since oil is the main support of our economy to cater for about 100 million people, we cannot allow a situation that will again

worsen our balance of payments problems," he said.

"While we are always prepared to honour our commitments to OPEC, we are also conscious of our responsibilities to our people," David-West said.

He continued: "There is no doubt that Nigeria has been recognized as a responsible member of OPEC. As a result of this, Nigeria has always resisted acting in desperation despite the harsh economic problems we face, but obviously there is a limit to such sacrifices."

The new prices for the different blends of Nigerian crude are:

Grade:	Old price	New price
Bonny light	30.00	28.00
Brass blend	30.00	28.00
Qua iboe light	29.95	27.95
Escravos light	29.85	27.90
Penington light	29.85	27.90
Forcados blend	29.00	27.50
Bonny medium	28.00	27.00

The Nigerian minister further said: "We trust that our OPEC friends will understand our present position and that our customers will appreciate our responsiveness to the market and will reciprocate by performing their contractual obligations."

Asked if Nigeria would reduce the price of its crude if other producers tried undercutting, the Nigerian minister said: "We shall react as the situation arises. We cannot ignore realities. We are rising to the occasion and we will continue to act very responsibly."

Early this week. Statoil of Norway and the British National Oil Corporation reduced the price of their crude by 1.50 and 1.35 dollars per barrel respectively.

The Nigerian minister last night reaffirmed to OPECNA Nigeria's solidarity with OPEC, adding that he would attend the extraordinary meeting of OPEC oil ministers being held in Geneva on 29 October.

Reduction Not 'Panic Measure'

AB201106 Lagos NAN in English 1056 GMT 20 Oct 84

[Text] Lagos, Oct. 20 (NAN) — The minister of petroleum and energy, Prof Tam David-West, said yesterday that the decision of the Federal Military Government to reduce the price of Nigerian crude oil was not a panic measure.

Speaking during an interview with a correspondent of the NEWS AGENCY OF NIGERIA (NAN) in Lagos, Prof David-West said that the decision became necessary to align the price of Nigerian crude with what was obtained on the spot market. He said that for some time now, spot market prices had been less than the prices of OPEC crude, adding that the only reasonable thing to do was to adjust our prices. The minister said that Nigeria was a responsible member of OPEC, adding we have never exceeded our quota, we have not engaged in any barter deals or price discounting.

Prof David-West told NAN that intelligence reports showed that OPEC member-countries were sympathetic with the Nigerian action, which he said underlined the case Nigeria made at the July 10 meeting of OPEC ministers in Vienna. The minister hinted that a special meeting of some ministers of oil producing countries within and outside OPEC was being planned for Tuesday in Geneva. Prof David-West said, I have been invited to the meeting but I don't know yet if I will attend. The meeting is at the instance of the Saudi oil minister, Shaykh Zaki Yamani.

Venezuela Laments Nigerian Cuts

PA191549 Madrid EFE in Spanish 0300 GMT 19 Oct 84

[Text] Caracas, 18 Oct (EFE) — The Energy and Mines Ministry today indicated that Venezuela laments the fact that Nigeria has joined the petroleum-producing countries that have decided to lower their crude prices.

According to a note issued by the ministry, the Venezuelan Government last night received "official assurances" that Nigeria would not make any decision on its petroleum prices before the OPEC ministers consultative meeting scheduled for 29 October in Geneva.

Based on that official information, Venezuelan Energy and Mines Minister Arturo Hernandez Grisanti said in a news conference today that Nigeria would not reduce its crude prices before consulting the other OPEC members.

Nevertheless, the note added, "it is regrettable that the Nigerian Government subsequently changed its position and decided to reduce the price by $2 a barrel."

Nigeria is the third country so far to announce a drop in crude prices. Great Britain and Norway announced their decision yesterday.

According to Venezuelan petroleum experts, the grave aspect of the case is that Nigeria belongs to OPEC and therefore cannot make such a unilateral decision.

Meanwhile, Hernandez Grisanti is consulting the OPEC General Secretariat and ministers of the organization to urgently establish the measures that must be applied in the current situation.

Algerian Minister on Reduction

LD210838 Algiers Domestic Service in Arabic 0600 GMT 21 Oct 84

[Text] Belkacem Nabi, minister of energy and chemical and petrochemical industries, yesterday stated that Norway's and Britain's decision to cut back the price of crude oil earmarked for export is regrettable and could have been avoided. In his reply to questions put to him by local information media journalists about the cutback in Nigeria crude prices, Brother Nabi pointed out that the prevailing situation in the international oil market does not deserve a suitable reply in the wake of cutbacks in prices even if this cutback were (?formal). Hence, the suitable reply, which was set to be made in March 1983 [as heard], is to organize the

production of all the exporting countries, especially the member countries of OPEC. He said that the member countries of OPEC that fixed production quotas and output according to demand, and carefully respected commitments agreed upon during various conferences, can protect the present level of prices.

Brother Nabi explained that reducing the level of oil demand will clear the atmosphere of the international market by removing the existing surplus currently used for competition.

GULF AFFAIRS

Transfer of Stricken Tanker to UAE Coast

GF200901 Doha QNA in Arabic 0818 GMT 20 Oct 84

[Text] Dubayy, 20 Oct (QNA) — Shipping sources in Dubayy today said the local agent of the Panamanian tanker *ROVER STAR* is currently holding talks in Muscat and Dubayy to discuss the possibility of moving the tanker to the UAE coast opposite Al-Fujayrah or Dubayy to determine the damage resulting from the fire which broke out on board the ship as it neared the Omani coast on 16 October. The sources said that 30 of the tanker's crew left Dubayy for home on 19 October. The fire has been extinguished, and the ship, which now inclines at an angle of 30 degrees, has been evacuated.

The tanker is now 30 miles off the Omani coast. Oil leaking from the tanker has produced an oil slick 5 km long and 500 meters wide. The oil slick is moving toward the southeastern part of the Gulf of Oman.

Kuwaiti Minister on GCC Defense, USSR Missiles

LD201532 Kuwait KUNA in Arabic 1340 GMT 20 Oct 84

[Text] London, 20 Oct (KUNA) — Kuwait Defense Minister Shaykh Salim al-Sabah stated that the defense strategy to be debated by leaders of the countries of the Gulf Cooperation Council at the fifth summit to be held in Kuwait on 27th November is "the strategy of the single hand and self-reliance, and that the aspirations of this strategy are great and numerous."

In a private interview published today by *Al-SHARQ AL-AWSAT*, he said that the joint forces in the Peninsula Shield II exercises, currently being held in the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia, "are totally Gulf forces; their commander and his assistants are sons of the Gulf and their plans were drawn up by Gulf officers and are being executed by Gulf soldiers. Kuwait is participating with two battalions."

Shaykh Salim pointed out that military industrialization is important and fundamental for the Gulf countries. However, "it must be based on careful study and good preparations." The Kuwaiti defense minister said that "there are Gulf committies now working on military coordination among the countries of the Council to set up joint military academies that will avoid duplication, and also working to alter the system of military instruction to suit the coordination policy. Many of the Gulf countries are currently studying Kuwait's [word indistinct] of compulsory service to prepare for its application."

Shaykh Salim stressed that the unified Gulf Army has been present on the operations field before the emergence of the GCC, which came to complete the natural picture and the family harmony among the brothers. That strength does not come from weapons but from faith in defense, and this is available to the people of the Gulf. The Kuwaiti defense minister disclosed that the defense ministers of the GCC countries are to hold a meeting after the Gulf summit on 27 November to begin implementing the clauses of the defense strategy that they will discuss during their meetings.

Shaykh Salim explained Kuwait relies on European early-warning systems and it has obtained Soviet missiles as an alternative to the Stinger missile, which the U.S. Congress refused to sell to Kuwait earlier this year. He stressed that the number of Soviet experts in Kuwait is less than 10. Last September Kuwait had reported the signing of military agreements with the Soviet Union.

He said that the countries of the GCC "harbor no animosity toward anyone or any country. At the same time, they will not allow any country to interfere in their own affairs or to commit aggression against their borders, nor accept anyone to defend their territories and resources other than their own sons."

He went on to say that the Peninsula Shield II exercises now taking place in Hafr al-Batin in Saudi Arabia will take place in sequence among the countries of the GCC. Their purpose is to acquaint the Gulf soldier with the nature of the other territories of the Gulf, in addition to participating in the joint exercises.

The Kuwaiti defense minister stressed that war today is a war of modern technology and machinery, and preparations must be made through faith, sincerity, and proper training. He said that "there are standing orders to open fire without referring to a higher command at anyone who penetrates Kuwaiti air space, borders, or waters."

He denied the existence of new arms agreements. He said that Kuwait's armament requirements go to all parts of the world which can meet our requirements "because it does not submit to any pressure. The whole world is in a state of war but in different ways." He added that Kuwait and the countries of the GCC "are seeking to reach solutions to stop the war between Iraq and Iran, which only benefits the enemies of Islam and of the region."

Regarding the military defensive power of the countries of the Council to protect their interests in the event of the continued escalation of the Iraq-Iran war, Shaykh Salim said that power does not come from weapons alone but from faith and defense, "and thanks to God, faith is abundant and genuine among the people of the Gulf to defend their countries. The cowardly finger does not open fire, no matter how courageous the hand that carries the rocket, the rifle, and the sword, and fights. Hence man and courage are the most important things, and they are available."

Regarding his earlier visits to Washington, Moscow, and Paris, Shaykh Salim said that they came about in order to seek new technology for developing the Kuwaiti Army "because I believe that war is the war of modern technology and machinery and we must prepare for it with faith, truthfulness, and training. This is our policy."

Replying to a question about developments in the Gulf war and the Gulf countries' capability to protect their oil fields against any attacks, Shaykh Salim said: "I do not want to discuss the ways and means because this is part of our defense plan, which is confidential. However, while I am with you here in the office,

I would like to emphasize to those who are tempted to attack that I and officers and noncommissioned officers have clear and open orders to open fire at anyone who comes within certain limits of the Kuwaiti skies, territorial waters, and the land boundaries — there are warning lines. No higher command need be referred to in order to answer fire with fire. He added that "if an aircraft approaches a certain line, the base will be informed as well as the Defense Ministry to notify the aircraft of the mistake. However, if it flies past the second line, it would be fired at immediately."

When asked whether that arrangement is confined to Kuwait or stems from a joint policy and planning of the GCC countries, Shaykh Salim al-Sabah replied: "Evidence exists that sister Saudi Arabia has downed two aircraft when they entered its air space."

Regarding reports that Kuwait acquires early-warning information through the Saudi AWACS network, and whether there are plans for Kuwait to acquire an independent network for military warning from the USSR or the United States, the defense minister said: "We are eager to be knowledgeable of what is going on in our skies and to know through our own means. We have a European system, neither Russian nor American, for early warning." He added: "We have a good early-warning system that enables us to know what is going on around us, and we cooperate with the other brothers whenever we find that their interest is in our boundaries and the boundaries of others."

KUNA on U.S.-USSR Moves To End Gulf Conflict

LD201358 Kuwait KUNA in English 0944 GMT 20 Oct 84

[Text] Paris, Oct 20 (KUNA) — Kuwait, as the immediate target for any possible escalation in the Iraq-Iran war, is presently setting the ground for a Soviet-U.S. move to end the Gulf conflict, according to an Arabic newsweekly here Saturday. Reporting from Kuwait, the Paris-based *AL-MUSTAQBAL* said in its latest issue that the U.S. new ambassador, Anthony Quainton and the Soviet ambassador, Pogos Akopov were the most active among the members of the foreign diplomatic corps in Kuwait.

The weekly said that the Kuwaiti protective step was meant to guard against any dramatic shift in the five-year armed Gulf conflict and was motivated by Kuwait's equal keenness on its relations with Washington as well as on "the strong political and military bridges Kuwait had lately cultivated with the Soviet Union," *AL-MUSTAQBAL* emphasized.

On the recent Kuwaiti-Soviet arms deal, the paper asserted that it involved a sophisticated air-defence network, advanced Soviet tanks specially equipped to suit the country's desert climate and a Soviet offer of advanced warplanes which, *AL-MUSTAQBAL* said, the Kuwaiti side had turned down. Quoting a Gulf official, the paper reported that a Soviet initiative to settle the five-year Gulf conflict was in the offing and predicted that any Soviet success will immensely bolster Moscow's image both in the region and in the Arab world.

GCC Secretary General Comments on Gulf Issues

GF211804 Manama WAKH in Arabic 1300 GMT 21 Oct 84

[Text] Abu Dhabi, 21 Oct (WAKH) — GCC Secretary General 'Abdallah Ya'qub Bisharah has stressed the importance of convening the fifth session of the GCC summit to be held in Kuwait on 27 November and which coincides with the current political developments witnessed by the Gulf region and the Arab arena.

In a statement published by the EMIRATES NEWS AGENCY today, he said that the Gulf summit will discuss the political, military, and economic situations. Mr Bisharah explained that some of the important issues to be discussed are the developments in the Gulf region in light of the recent escalation in the Iraqi-Iranian war, the situation in the Middle East region, and the world situation in the wake of the recent developments in the petroleum market.

He pointed out that the petroleum ministers in the GCC countries will hold a meeting on 3 November in Doha in order to prepare a report for the GCC summit on the various developments in the petroleum market. The GCC secretary general said that the GCC petroleum ministers' meeting comes within the context of the series of meetings that are being held by the various ministerial committees in preparation for the summit conference, such as the meeting of the post and telegram ministers on 27 October in Riyadh; the electricity ministers' meeting on 30 October in Doha; the housing ministers' meeting on 4 November in Riyadh; the finance ministers' meeting on 6 November in Riyadh; the planning ministers' meeting on 7 November in Riyadh; and finally, the meeting of the ministerial council on 20 November in Kuwait which will prepare the final report that will be submitted to the summit.

Mr 'Abdallah Bisharah stressed that the efforts exerted by the GCC leaders to contain Arab differences and achieve unity in the Arab ranks constitute part of the GCC message and objectives as stated by its first meeting in May 1981 in Abu Dhabi.

The secretary general also stressed that the Peninsula Shield II maneuvers of the GCC armies are considered an example and a symbol of the determination of the region's leaders and children to bear their responsibilities in protecting the region's independence and reinforcing its stability, and that they should be determined to fulfill their commitments toward their intrinsic responsibilities in securing the region. He said the importance of the Peninsula Shield II maneuvers lies in that they constitute a translation of the willingness of their majesties and highnesses the leaders of the GCC countries to bear their responsibilities in defending this region and clearly shows the unity of destiny and the unity of vision and the determination to confront any aggression.

With regard to the accomplishments made by the GCC, he said that its accomplishments have been numerous and important, noting in particular the formation of the unified customs union. Improved cooperation and increased trade exchange among the member states led to the Gulf countries all becoming members of this union and applying a unified customs law on all local goods.

BAHRAIN

Reportage on Visit of Danish Prime Minister

GF200840 Manama WAKH in Arabic 0745 GMT 20 Oct 84

[Text] Manama, 20 Oct (WAKH) — Danish Prime Minister Poul Schluter and his wife arrived in Manama from Abu Dhabi today on a 2-day official visit to Bahrain on his tour to a number of the region's countries. The visit is at the invitation of Shaykh Khalifah ibn Salman Al Khalifah, Bahraini prime minister, who welcomed him upon his arrival. During his visit Mr Schluter will hold talks on the current situation in the Gulf and the economic and trade relations between the two countries. Amir of Bahrain Shaykh 'Isa ibn Salman Al Khalifah is expected to receive Schluter later today.

Received by Amir

GF201115 Manama WAKH in Arabic 0930 GMT 20 Oct 84

[Excerpt] Manama, 20 Oct (WAKH) — His Highness Shaykh 'Isa ibn Salman Al Khalifah, amir of Bahrain, received a written message from Queen of Denmark Margaret II dealing with bilateral relations between the two countries and cooperation in various fields. The letter also included an invitation to his highness to visit Denmark. The message was conveyed by Poul Schluter, Danish prime minister, who had arrived in Manama earlier this morning, during his meeting today with the amir of Bahrain.

Official Talks Begin 20 Oct

GF201117 Manama WAKH in Arabic 0945 GMT 20 Oct 84

[Excerpt] Manama, 20 Oct (WAKH) — The session of official talks between the Bahraini and Danish sides was held in Manama at noon today. The Bahraini side was led by His Highness Shaykh Khalifah ibn Salman Al Khalifah, the prime minister, and the Danish side was led by Danish Prime Minister Poul Schluter. The talks are expected to discuss the situation in the Gulf region and the trade and economic relations between the two countries.

Results of Talks Reported

GF201225 Manama WAKH in Arabic 1030 GMT 20 Oct 84

[Text] Manama, 20 Oct (WAKH) — The Bahraini-Danish session of talks, headed by Bahraini Prime Minister Shaykh Khalifah ibn Salman Al Khalifah on the Bahraini side and Danish Prime Minister Poul Schluter on the Danish side, concluded in Manama at noon today.

During their talks, bilateral relations between Denmark and Bahrain were reviewed, and a discussion was held on ways to develop these relations in the economic and trade fields. The session also discussed political issues of interest to the two countries, particularly the situation in the Middle East and the Arab Gulf region. Of special interest was the Iraqi-Iranian war, in addition to the relations between the Gulf countries and the EEC and the means to ensure creation of cooperation in this regard.

During the talks the Danish prime minister expressed appreciation for the Bahraini point of view and for further development of Bahraini-Danish relations. He said this visit will open new vistas for cooperation between Bahrain and Denmark. The Bahraini prime minister also expressed satisfaction for the talks he held with the Danish prime minister and hoped that they will contribute to the development of Bahraini-Danish relations and their strengthening on various levels.

Departs Bahrain 21 Oct

GF211212 Manama WAKH in Arabic 1055 GMT 21 Oct 84

[Excerpt] Manama, 21 Oct (WAKH) — Danish Prime Minister Poul Schluter and his accompanying delegation left Manama for home today following a 2-day visit to Bahrain, which took place at the conclusion of his tour of a number of the region's states.

PLO's Yasir 'Arafat Arrives for 'Brief' Visit

GF201209 Manama WAKH in Arabic 1135 GMT 20 Oct 84

[Text] Manama, 20 Oct (WAKH) — Yasir 'Arafat, chairman of the PLO Executive Committee, and his accompanying delegation arrived in Manama from Doha at noon today on a brief visit to Bahrain on his tour to a number of the Gulf states. During his visit 'Arafat will hold talks with Bahraini officials on the current developments on the Palestinian and Arab arenas. Upon his arrival 'Arafat was received by Bahraini Foreign Minister Shaykh Muhammad ibn Mubarak Al Khalifah and Wafa Nabhan, director of the PLO office in Bahrain.

Meets Amir, Makes Statement

GF201820 Manama WAKH in Arabic 1730 GMT 20 Oct 84

[Text] Manama, 20 Oct (WAKH) — Bahraini Amir Shaykh 'Isa ibn Salman Al Khalifah received here this afternoon Mr Yasir 'Arafat, PLO Executive Committee chairman, who is currently visiting Manama.

The current developments in the Palestinian arena were reviewed during the meeting especially with regard to the consultations currently taking place on convening the PNC. Other contemporary Arab issues were also discussed. The meeting was attended by Shaykh Muhammad ibn Mubarak Al Khalifah, Bahraini foreign minister; Mr Wafa Nabhan, PLO office director in Bahrain; and Mr 'Abd al-Rahman al-Suwayr, deputy director of the PLO office.

Mr Yasir 'Arafat arrived in Manama earlier today on a visit to Bahrain within his tour of a number of the region's states. After the meeting, Mr 'Arafat made a statement in which he stressed Bahrain's support for the PLO as the sole legitimate representative of the Palestinian people. He added that he briefed the amir on the latest developments in the Palestinian arena especially with regard to the issue of convening the PNC next month. Mr 'Arafat also said that he briefed the amir on the dangers facing

the Palestinian people and their shrines, pointing out the attempts by former Israeli defense minister Sharon to occupy the Ibrahimi Mosque together with large crowds of Israelis in a terrorist demonstration. Mr 'Arafat warned that Sharon will repeat such actions inside the occupied land.

Mr 'Arafat said that the discussion also dealt with the Arab situation in general particularly with regard to the Iraqi-Iranian war and the efforts being made to put an end to this conflict through peaceful means. Mr 'Arafat pointed out that he will meet in Jeddah this evening with Habib al-Chatti, ICO secretary general, in order to attempt to implement what was agreed upon during the recent meeting of the Islamic Good Offices Committee in order to put and end to the Iraqi-Iranian war.

With regard to convening the 17th session of the PNC, Mr 'Arafat said that the PLO has received two invitations from Iraq and Jordan to hold the PNC session in any of these two countries.

Asked about Tunisian press reports of the PLO's intention to build a fighter plane, Mr 'Arafat explained that the PLO has fighter planes and pilots and that some modifications have been applied to these planes. He pointed out that a plane belonging to the PLO crashed last week during a test flight.

Departs for Saudi Arabia

GF201830 Manama WAKH in Arabic 1740 GMT 20 Oct 84

[Text] Manama, 20 Oct (WAKH) — PLO Executive Committee Chairman Yasir 'Arafat and accompanying delegation left Manama for Jeddah this evening following a brief visit to Bahrain that lasted several hours within his tour of a number of the region's states. During this visit, Mr 'Arafat held talks with Bahraini Amir Shaykh 'Isa ibn Salman Al Khalifah on the situation in the Arab arena in general and on the Palestinian question in particular. He was seen off by Bahraini Foreign Minister Shaykh Muhammad ibn Mubarak Al Khalifah and a number of senior officials.

QATAR

British Defense Official Arrives in Qatar

GF201845 Manama WAKH in Arabic 1737 GMT 20 Oct 84

[Text] Mr Adam Butler, British minister of state for defense procurement, arrived in Doha this evening leading a military delegation for a 2-day visit to Qatar during which he will meet with a number of officials in the Qatari Armed Forces. This visit by the British minister comes within a tour he is currently making to a number of the region's states.

PLO's 'Arafat Arrives, Makes Statement

GF191835 Manama WAKH in Arabic 1755 GMT 19 Oct 84

[Text] Doha, 19 Oct (WAKH) — PLO Executive Committee Chairman Yasir 'Arafat arrived in Doha today from Abu Dhabi on a visit to Qatar within his current tour of a number of Gulf states.

Upon arrival, Yasir 'Arafat stated that his visit to Qatar falls within the framework of an Arab tour he is undertaking in order to brief Arab leaders on the latest developments in the Palestinian arena, particularly with regard to the results of the expanded meeting of the Palestinian popular and organizational leaderships which convened recently in Tunis and which decided to convene the Palestine National Council as soon as possible.

In a statement to QNA he said that the recent developments in the Arab arena, particularly the situation in the occupied territories in Lebanon and the latest escalation in the Iraqi-Iranian war in addition to the efforts being exerted on the Islamic and the non-Islamic levels to end this devastating war, will be the topics of discussion with Arab officials.

Received by Heir Apparent

GF200959 Manama WAKH in Arabic 0900 GMT 20 Oct 84

[Text] Doha, 20 Oct (WAKH) — His Highness Shaykh Hamad Ibn Khalifah Al Thani, Qatari heir apparent, received in Doha today Yasir 'Arafat, chairman of the PLO Executive Committee, who is currently visiting Qatar. The meeting was attended on the Palestinian side by Hani al-Hasan, political adviser of the Palestinian leader and member of the Fatah Central Committee; and Abu Murwan, PLO representative in Morocco. 'Arafat briefed his highness on recent Palestinian developments, particularly the results of meetings of the Palestinian leaderships on the necessity of holding the PNC session. The current Gulf, Arab, and international developments were also comprehensively discussed.

SAUDI ARABIA

Reportage on Visit of Turkish Labor Minister

Official Talks Begin

TA202043 Ankara Domestic Service in Turkish 2000 GMT 20 Oct 84

[Text] Labor and Social Security Minister Mustafa Kalemli, who is on an official visit to Saudi Arabia, began his official contacts today. He met Saudi Minister of Labor and Social Affairs Muhammad 'Ali al-Fayiz today. During the meeting, in which delegations from both countries participated, the two sides agreed to implement a plan to enable more Turkish workers to be employed in Saudi Arabia and to speed up the necessary formalities. Kalemli will visit the Saudi Social Insurance Institute tomorrow. He will then be received by the Crown Prince, 'Abdallah ibn 'Abd al-'Aziz.

Received by Crown Prince

LD211824 Riyadh SPA in English 1230 GMT 21 Oct 84

[Text] Riyadh, Oct 21, SPA — Crown Prince 'Abdallah, the first deputy premier and commander of the National Guard, received here today the visiting Turkish Labor and Social Security Minister Mustafa Kalemli, who delivered to him a message from Prime Minister Turgut Ozal. The royal audience was attended

by Saudi Labor and Social Affairs Minister Muhammad 'Ali al-Fayiz and the Turkish ambassador to Saudi Arabia.

Earlier today, Kalemli visited in Riyadh the headquarters of the General Organization for Social Insurance and held talks with its governor, Masaad al-Sinani [SPA spelling] on several issues relating to cooperation in the field of social security. After the meeting, he had admired the prevailing social insurance system in the Kingdom.

Kalemi arrived here yesterday from Jeddah, as part of a visit to Saudi Arabia at an invitation of Al-Fayiz.

Libya's Al-Turayki Arrives in Jeddah

LD212123 Riyadh SPA in Arabic 2047 GMT 21 Oct 84

[Text] Jeddah, 21 Oct (SPA) — The secretary of the Popular Committee of the People's Bureau for Foreign Liaison of Libya, 'Ali 'Abd al-Salam al-Turayki, this evening arrived in Jeddah on a visit to the Kingdom. He was welcomed on arrival by Foreign Minister His Royal Highness Prince Sa'ud al-Faysal; the director general of the Foreign Ministry in Jeddah; Salim Sunbal, the head of the Protocol Department of the Foreign Ministry in the western region; and a number of officials.

'Arafat Arrives in Jeddah, Met by Chatti

LD201928 Riyadh SPA in Arabic 1750 GMT 20 Oct 84

[Text] Jiddah, 20 Oct (SPA) — PLO Executive Committee Chairman Yasir 'Arafat arrived this evening in Jeddah. He was welcomed at the airport by Habib Chatti, secretary general of the Islamic Conference Organization, and by representatives from the Royal Protocol Office and a number of officials. It is noteworthy that 'Arafat held talks today with His Highness Shaykh 'Isa ibn Salman Al Khalifah, amir of Bahrain, concerning the latest developments in the Middle East and the Iraq-Iran war.

Received by Information Minister

GF211219 Doha QNA in Arabic 1030 GMT 21 Oct 84

[Text] Jeddah, 21 Oct (QNA) — Saudi Information Minister 'Ali al-Sha'ir met with Yasir 'Arafat, chairman of the PLO Executive Committee, and the accompanying delegation who are currently visiting Saudi Arabia within the framework of 'Arafat's tour to a number of the region's countries.

The QNA correspondent in Riyadh has learned from Palestinian delegation sources that during the meeting a comprehensive discussion was held on the development of the Palestinian cause and the recent developments regarding convening the PNC in light of the recent contacts and efforts made to achieve reconciliation among the Palestinian factions. The meeting also discussed the developments of the Iraqi-Iranian war and future ideas on the new escalation that this war recently witnessed and the role to be played by the Islamic Good Offices Committee to contain this war.

UAE

Cooperation Agreement Signed With Denmark

GF200836 Manama WAKH in Arabic 0700 GMT 20 Oct 84

[Text] Abu Dhabi, 20 Oct (WAKH) — The first agreement for economic, industrial, and technical cooperation between the UAE and Denmark was signed here this morning. The agreement was signed on the UAE side by Shaykh Hamdan ibn Rashid Muhammad, deputy prime minister, and on the Danish side by Prime Minister Poul Schluter at the end of his official 4-day visit to the UAE.

PDRY

Palestinian Democratic Alliance Delegation Arrives

GF191116 Aden Domestic Service in Arabic 0800 GMT 19 Oct 84

[Text] Brother Nayif Hawatimah, secretary general of the Democratic Front for the Liberation of Palestine [DFLP], arrived in Aden on 18 October, at the head of a DFLP delegation, together with 'Abd al-Rahim (Mulawwah), member of the PFLP Political Bureau; and Mahir al-Sharif, member of the Palestinian Communist Party Central Committee. Brother Nabih 'Abd al-Samad, member of the Political Bureau of the Lebanese Communist Party; and Khalid Hamam, member of the Political Bureau of the Syrian Communist Party, have also arrived in Aden.

ANA has learned that the parties in the Palestinian Democratic Alliance will hold consultations among themselves on Palestinian developments to strengthen the efforts to safeguard PLO unity on the basis of an anti-imperialist and anti-Zionist stand in order to firmly confront all the attempts to split the PLO, safeguard the national struggle waged by the Palestinian people for self-determination and for an independent state on their national soil, and to develop and strengthen the PLO's relations of struggle with Syria, the national Lebanese sources, and all the Arab and internationalist forces of liberation and progress.

They were received on arrival at Aden Airport by 'Abd al-Ghani 'Abd al-Qadir, member of the Political Bureau and secretary of the YSP Central Committee.

Officials Received by Chairman

GF191436 Aden Domestic Service in Arabic 1230 GMT 19 Oct 84

[Excerpt] Brother 'Ali Nasir Muhammad, secretary general of the YSP Central Committee, chairman of the Supreme People's Council Presidium and chairman of the Council of Ministers, today received Brother Nayif Hawatimah, the secretary general of the Democratic Front for the Liberation of Palestine [DFLP]. During the meeting they discussed the struggle relations between the YSP and the DFLP in addition to means to reinforcing and developing them. They also discussed the latest developments in the Palestinian and Arab arenas and the requirements to rein-

force the national Arab liberation movement in the confrontation of the imperialist and the Zionist plots and challenges.

Another meeting was held between Brother 'Ali Nasir Muhammad and Brother George Habash, PFLP secretary general. He also met with Nadim Abd al-Samad, member of the Political Bureau and secretary of the Central Committee of the Lebanese Communist Party; Khalid Hamam, member of the Political Bureau of the Syrian Communist Party, and Dr Mahir al-Sharif, member of the Central Committee of the Palestinian Communist Party.

During this meeting Brother 'Ali Nasir Muhammad expressed his great satisfaction over the development of struggle relations between the YSP and these parties and organizations. He stressed the determination of the YSP to continue to develop these relations in various political and party spheres in such a way that serves to reinforce the struggle of the Arab national liberation movement vis-a-vis imperialism, Zionism, and reactionaries. Brother 'Ali Nasir Muhammad asserted the need to join the struggle capabilities of the national Arab and the progressive powers and to reinforce their cohesion with the Arab national and progressive regime toward confronting the aggressive and conspiratory plots of the imperialist-Zionist-reactionary alliance. This alliance is aimed at the liberation achievements attained by our Arab peoples. It is also designed to restore imperialist influence in the Arab region and to obliterate just Arab rights and issues, foremost of which is the issue of the Arab Palestinian people and their right to determine their future themselves and to establish an independent state.

In this context, Brother 'Ali Nasir Muhammad stressed the importance of preserving the Palestinian national unity and to reinforce the unity of the PLO and its struggle alliance with Syria and with the Lebanese national movement. This is a condition necessary to scuttle all the capitulatory and reactionary plans concocted by the imperialist and the Zionist circles.

Radio Comment on Palestinian Talks

GF201800 Aden Domestic Service in Arabic 1230 GMT 20 Oct 84

[From "The News and Reports" Program]

[Text] Persistent efforts are continuing to end the differences among some groups of the Palestinian revolution in order to safeguard Palestinian national unity and strengthen the unity of the PLO. Within the framework of these efforts, fraternal meetings are currently taking place in Aden between the brother officials of the YSP and the revolutionary government and between the leaders of some groups of the Arab Palestinian revolution.

Brother 'Ali Nasir Muhammad, secretary general of the YSP Central Committee, chairman of the Supreme People's Council Presidium, and chairman of the Council of Ministers, held a joint meeting with PFLP Secretary General George Habash; Nayif Hawatimah, secretary general of the Democratic Front for the Liberation of Palestine; Nadim 'Abd al-Samad, secretary of the Central Committee of the Lebanese Communist Party; Khalid Hamam, Political Bureau Member of the Syrian Communist Party; and Ma'n Sharif, Central Committee member of the Palestinian Communist Party.

In this meeting the chairman stressed the importance of protecting Palestinian national unity and strengthening the unity of the PLO and its struggle alliance with Syria and the Lebanese national movement as a necessary condition to thwart all defeatist schemes intended to liquidate the Palestinian question and which are plotted by imperialist and Zionist circles.

Brother Muhammad also stressed the importance of preserving the energies and struggle capabilities of the Arab national progressive forces and strengthening their cohesion with the nationalist and progressive Arab regimes. This is to be done in order to take a firm stand against the aggressive and conspiratorial schemes of the imperialist-Zionist-reactionary alliance which want to liquidate the liberation achievements of our Arab peoples, bringing back colonial hegemony over the Arab region, and obliterating the just Arab causes and rights, foremost among which is the cause of the Palestinian Arab people and their legitimate right to return to their homeland, to self-determination and to establish an independent state.

The parties of the Palestinian Democratic Alliance had arrived in Aden on 18 October to continue consultations within the framework of the efforts being made by the PDRY and Algeria to (?implement the clauses) of the Palestinian unity of struggle in accordance with the Aden-Algiers agreement and the resolutions of the PNC.

YAR

Cooperation Protocol Signed With Romania

GF220637 Sanaa Domestic Service in Arabic 0430 GMT 22 Oct 84

[Text] A protocol for economic and technical cooperation was signed at the Petroleum and Mineral Resources Corporation between our country and the Government of the Socialist Republic of Romania. The protocol allows for the expansion of economic, scientific, and technical cooperation. The protocol was signed on the Yemeni side by 'Ali 'Abd al-Rahman al-Bahr, minister of state, chairman of the Petroleum and Mineral Resources Corporation and member of the Standing Committee. On the Romanian side it was signed by Gheorghe Vlad, Romanian oil minister. The signing of the protocol was attended by under secretaries of the Ministries of Economy, Supply, Development, and Agriculture, the local body for planning, and other officials. The Romanian minister departed Sanaa after concluding his visit to the YAR.

Deputy Minister Leaves for Libya, Algeria

GF200616 Sanaa Domestic Service in Arabic 0430 GMT 20 Oct 84

[Text] Lieutenant Colonel Mujahid Abu Shawarib, deputy prime minister of domestic affairs and member of the Standing Committee, left Sanaa this morning for a few days' visit to Libya and

Algeria. In a statement to SABA' News Agency, the brother deputy prime minister stated that he is carrying two messages from the Brother President Secretary General Colonel 'Ali 'Abdallah Salih to Libyan President Colonel Mu'ammar al-Qadhdhafi, and Algerian President Chadli Bendjedid, dealing with bilateral relations issues and the cooperation between our country and the two fraternal countries Libya and Algeria. In addition the message deals with the current Arab situation, particularly the differences and division prevailing in Arab relations which had and still have a psychological effect on fateful causes and doubles the extent of dangers threatening the Arab nation.

Reportage on Visit of Jordanian Crown Prince

Al-Majid Previews Visit

NC191344 Cairo Domestic Service in Arabic 1230 GMT 19 Oct 84

[Text] Foreign Minister Dr 'Ismat 'Abd al-Majid has stated that Jordanian Crown Prince Hasan's visit to Egypt tomorrow will be an opportunity to complete the talks President Husni Mubarak started with King Husayn in Amman and Aqaba. He added that tomorrow his highness, Prince Hasan, will begin a series of meetings with President Husni Mubarak and Prime Minister Kamal Hasan 'Ali. He said that the Egyptian-Jordanian meetings will deal with a large number of subjects of concern to the two countries as well as with bilateral relations.

Dr 'Abd al-Majid said that Egypt hopes to achieve a peaceful settlement of the Middle East crisis and that Egypt supports King Husayn's call for convening an international conference for solving the Middle East problem.

Regarding the Iraq-Iran war and its escalation, Dr 'Ismat 'Abd al-Majid said that Egypt has often declared its hopes that it will put to an end at it is destructive to both fraternal Muslim countries. He said that Iraq has responded to Egypt's call [for ending the war] made within the framework of the nonaligned states but that Iran has not.

Cooperation Seminar Planned

NC191631 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1500 GMT 19 Oct 84

[Text] Cairo, 19 Oct (MENA) — At noon tomorrow Jordanian Crown Prince Hasan and Egyptian Prime Minister Kamal Hasan 'Ali will open a seminar on spheres of cooperation between Egypt and Jordan. Prince Hasan, who arrives in Cairo tomorrow morning as the head of a delegation, will address the session, as will Kamal Hasan 'Ali and Dr Yusuf Wali, minister of agriculture and food security.

During 3 days of meetings, the seminar will deal with the prospects of cooperation between Egypt and Jordan in the agricultural fields, as well as with the exchange of technical expertise in these fields. The seminar, organized by the Egyptian Agriculture Ministry, will be attended by a large number of Egyptian and Jordanian agriculturalists.

President Husni Mubarak is scheduled to receive Prince Hasan on Sunday. President Mubarak will also hold a luncheon to honor the Jordanian prince and his wife.

The Egyptian-Jordanian Joint Higher Committee which starts its meetings under Prince Hasan and Kamal Hasan 'Ali on Sunday, will be attended by a large number of ministers, including the foreign, transport, agriculture, and electricity ministers. The committee will discuss prospects of Egyptian-Jordanian cooperation in the economic, trade, maritime transport, and air transport fields, as well as the stimulation of tourism between the two countries, Egyptian labor in Jordan, and other subjects on joint cooperation. Several technical committees will emerge from the joint committee to study these subjects in detail.

It is known that the formation of the joint committee was agreed upon during President Husni Mubarak's visit to Jordan. During his 4-day visit to Egypt, the Jordanian crown prince will be accompanied by an honorary escort mission led by Engineer Mahir Abazah, minister of electricity.

Prince Hasan Arrives

NC201048 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1035 GMT 20 Oct 84

[Text] Cairo, 20 Oct (MENA) — Jordan's Crown Prince Hasan, his wife, and the delegation accompanying them arrived in Cairo before noon today on a 4-day visit to Cairo. He was received by Prime Minister Kamal Hasan 'Ali and his wife; Dr Kamal Hilmi, deputy prime minister and minister of higher education and scientific research; Dr 'Ismat 'Abd al-Majid, foreign minister; and Dr Mahir Abazah, minister of electricity and energy.

Joint Seminar Opens

NC201736 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1435 GMT 20 Oct 84

[Excerpts] Cairo, 20 Oct (MENA) — Today at noon Jordanian Crown Prince Hasan, Egyptian Prime Minister Kamal Hasan 'Ali, and Dr Yusuf Wali, Egyptian minister of agricultural and food security, opened the second seminar on the vistas of Jordanian-Egyptian scientific and technological cooperation. The 3-day seminar, organized by the Ministry of Agriculture, is chaired by the Jordanian crown prince. It is being held at the conference hall of the Egyptian International Center for Agriculture and is aimed at consolidating scientific and technological cooperation between Egypt and Jordan.

In a speech beginning the seminar, Jordanian Crown Prince Hasan said that we are living in an era during which nations and peoples are locked in a competition are using their ability to set up a viable, scientific, and technological apparatus to meet the needs of their homelands and nations, and help them find solutions for the problems that confront them. He added that Egypt and Jordan might be able to establish an important scientific center whose bountiful findings can be integrated through [collective] investments made in the area. He said that such a center can be established through joint vision aimed at ratifying a comprehensive and clear-cut scientific covenant.

In his speech, the Jordanian crown prince demanded that we rely on our national capabilities throughout the various phases of the implementation of production and [public] service projects. He also demanded that we rely on these capabilities while using these projects, as well as while endeavoring to increase exports to face the balance of payments deficit. He said that our belief that no Arab country can face contemporary challenges through individual action is growing, particularly in the domain of economic development. The crown prince added that attaining the ideal objective requires continuous organization, serious followup, and a wise discriminatory policy that would go so far as to neutralize political considerations when it comes to economic requirements, the people's needs, the role of the Arab common market, and the importance of joint strategy, the rules of which were laid down during several Arab meetings.

Prince Hasan noted in his speech that we are facing immense challenges. He added that it is perhaps our mutual need that has dictated the decision to work together before it is too late. This is because we all recognize the insufficiency of food production Arab countries are suffering.

Prince Hasan said that formulating a comprehensive and integrated strategy for developing the northern Red Sea region is the most important area of integrated action. This can be done through quiet and meaningful work aimed at creating a concept for cooperation among the Red Sea littoral states, which engulfs an almost homogeneous environmental area whose various resources complement one another.

His highness said that this region is now witnessing, as it will in the coming few years, the implementation of enormous projects requiring integrated efforts to procure the requirements for developing and protecting the resources available in this region's land and water.

Crown Prince Hasan added that his country is currently implementing a comprehensive plan for developing southern Jordan, including Wadi al-'Arabah, which is a part of the northen Red Sea region.

The Jordanian crown prince said that we have great hope that, at the earliest possible time, our scientific establishments will formulate joint projects and plans for a large-scale joint Arab action, especially because Egypt and Jordan both have specialized scientific and research institutions to serve as tools of integrated action.

His highness explained that modern technology creates a challenge which we and our Arab brothers must confront together. He added that this can be achieved through joint projects that would open new vistas for developing our scientific and technical capabilities, for buttressing our pan-Arab economy, and for protecting us from the effects of an external invasion of our markets.

Prime Minister Kamal Hasan 'Ali also delivered a speech during the seminar saying that it is fortunate this seminar coincides with the restoration of Egyptian-Jordanian relations, resulting from the bold decision made by His Majesty King Husayn. This decision expresses the feelings of the fraternal Jordanian and Egyptian people.

'Ali said that now is the time for us to surge ahead scientifically and reach the broad horizons of this age by precisely surveying our resources and working scientifically to mobilize these resources to increase the national revenue we receive from them.

'Ali said that a close look at the Arab arena shows the existence of vast human, mineral, capital, and water resources in this part of the world. Through the coordination and mobilization of these resources, it would be possible to achieve a large increase in production in all sectors, he added.

The prime minister stated that we must agree on the need to translate the spirit of brotherhood and cooperation into reality by implementing the recommendations of the first seminar and the recommendations to be made during the second seminar through a joint strategy to be agreed upon by the parties.

The seminar is scheduled to hold its final session on Monday when Jordanian Crown Prince Hasan will deliver a speech dealing with the demography of the West Bank. The seminar will then issue its resolutions and recommendations.

Hasan, Al-Mahjub Review Relations

NC201820 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1740 GMT 20 Oct 84

[Text] Cairo, 20 Oct (MENA) — Jordanian Crown Prince Hasan today received People's Assembly Speaker Dr Rif'at al-Mahjub as part of the crown prince's contacts and meetings with officials in Cairo. After the meeting, Dr al-Mahjub said that he and Prince Hasan reviewed development of Egyptian-Jordanian relations in various areas. He said both sides (?welcomed) the restoration of bilateral relations, and expressed their desire to bolster these relations in all areas, particularly economic and commercial areas. Dr al-Mahjub added that during the meeting they also reviewed the latest developments concerning the Palestinian issue and exchanged views on the Middle East problem. He said that the Arab intellectual colloquium headed by Prince Hasan will soon start its activities in Cairo.

'Ali Speaks at Banquet

NC202223 Cairo Domestic Service in Arabic 2100 GMT 20 Oct 84

[Excerpt] Prime Minister Kamal Hasan 'Ali has called for keeping inter-Arab differences within their Arab context, however sharp they may become. He cautioned that these differences should not be a justification for an Arab to side with foreigners against his Arab brother.

In a speech Kamal Hasan 'Ali delivered during a banquet he hosted at Al-Tahirah Palace tonight in honor of His Highness Jordanian Crown Prince Hasan and his wife Princess Tharwat, 'Ali pointed out [passage indistinct]. Kamal Hasan 'Ali called for solidarity and united action as long as the goal is a just peace that will restore the Arab nation's legitimate rights.

Hasan Speaks at Banquet

JN210853 Amman Domestic Service in Arabic 0500 GMT 21 Oct 84

[Excerpt] His Highness Crown Prince Hasan has affirmed that the deteriorating situation in the occupied Arab territories necessitates an urgent move to find a just, comprehensive solution to the Arab-Israeli conflict, the crux and basis of which is the Palestinian issue. In a speech delivered at a banquet yesterday given by Egyptian Prime Minister Kamal Hasan 'Ali in honor of Their Highnesses Prince Hasan and Princess Tharwat, his highness said Jordan is clearly and firmly committed to finding such a solution based on fundamental principles. The most important of which is the need to enable the Palestinian people to exercise their full legitimate rights, foremost of which is their absolute right to self-determination on their soil under the PLO, their sole

legitimate representative. He added that Jordan is also committed to and supports independent Palestinian decisionmaking.

He said that a just solution to the Palestinian issue must include Israel's withdrawal from all occupied Arab territories, foremost of which is Arab Jerusalem. It must be a solution based on Security Council Resolutions 242 and 338.

His highness said that, in view of what international and regional affairs dictates, Jordan has reiterated its call for an international peace conference under UN auspices with the participation of all parties to the conflict, including the permanent members of the Security Council.

He noted Jordan's clear and frank stand in support of fraternal Iraq, because aggression against an Arab country is aggression against the whole Arab nation and because Arab security is indivisible. His Highness Prince Hasan also noted Egypt's stand on the Iraq-Iran war, represented in supporting and extending continuous backing to Iraq — backing which confirmed that the Arabs have no alternative but to stand united when faced with aggression, regardless of their differences.

His highness praised the Lebanese people's steadfastness against Israeli occupation, which denied Israel the opportunity to implement its expansionist designs aimed at usurping the land and resources through expelling the legitimate inhabitants. He said the Lebanese fought heroically against the occupation, forcing Israel to revise and reduce its designs. He said that the Arabs will not forget Egypt's honorable stand in defending Arab rights in fraternal Lebanon.

His highness affirmed that we in Jordan regard the restoration of political relations with Egypt as a principal step toward rebuilding a unified Arab stand and coordinating sincere efforts to serve our Arab nation and its just causes. He said the Jordanian decision came as a result of rational and realistic thinking that recognizes Egypt's weight and pioneering role in serving Arab causes. He added that, by virtue of its historic role, geographical position, and the deep roots of its people, Egypt has been a forerunner among countries that endeavored to achieve joint Arab action.

Prince Hasan said that his current visit to Egypt is an expression of the kinship and brotherly ties between our two countries and peoples and an embodiment of the special relations that bind us at the instructions of the two great leaders, His Majesty King Husayn and His Excellency President Muhammad Husni Mubarak. He said that cooperation between Jordan and Egypt is an indivisible part of joint Arab action in confronting the various challenges to our nation.

Mubarak, Prince Hasan Meet

NC211311 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1255 GMT 21 Oct 84

[Text] Cairo, 21 Oct (MENA) — Jordanian Crown Prince Hasan has expressed his gratitude and appreciation to President Husni Mubarak for the hospitality accorded him during his current visit to Egypt. Prince Hasan also expressed his appreciation of the cooperation and coordination between Egypt and Jordan. The Jordanian crown prince replied to newsmen's questions after President Mubarak received him at the presidential palace in Al-Qubbah today. They met alone for 2 hours.

The Jordanian crown prince is scheduled to hold a news conference tomorrow, to be attended by both Egyptian and foreign newsmen.

Trade Delegation Arrives

NC211622 Cairo MENA English 1605 GMT 21 Oct 84

[Text] Cairo, Oct 21 (MENA) — A Jordanian delegation comprising a group of industry, tourism, and trade officials arrived here today on a several-days visit. The delegation will join talks currently held by Jordanian Crown Prince Hasan and his accompanying delegation.

Economic Cooperation Discussed

NC212036 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1935 GMT 21 Oct 84

[Text] Cairo, 21 Oct (MENA) — The Joint Egyptian-Jordanian Economic Committee discussed at its meeting today necessary steps to implement what was agreed upon by His Majesty King Husayn and President Husni Mubarak during their recent meeting. This includes increasing the volume of trade and economic and technical cooperation between the two countries, strengthening means of transport and communications, inproving development facilities, exchanging technical expertise in the auto and clothing industries, extracting and processing potassium, developing tourism and aviation, and operating a ferry line between Nuwaybi' and Aqaba.

The committee also discussed the development of cooperation between the two countries through a general economic and technical agreement, an agreement to encourage and protect investments, and an agreement to regulate employment of Egyptian workers in Jordan.

The committee decided to form joint technical subcommittees on the ministerial level to begin work immediately and study the executive steps in the spheres of cooperation between the two countries. The subcommittees will submit the results of their studies to the Joint Egyptian-Jordanian Committee.

Mubarak Meets With Ministers, Reviews Jordan Talks

NC212152 Cairo Domestic Service in Arabic 2100 GMT 21 Oct 84

[Text] President Husni Mubarak chaired a meeting at the Al-'Urubah palace this evening attended by Prime Minister Kamal Hasan 'Ali; Dr Mustafa Kamal Hilmi, deputy prime minister and minister of higher education; Field Marshal Muhammad 'Abd al-Halim Abu Ghazalah, deputy prime minister and minister of defense and war production; and Minister of Information Safwat al-Sharif. The meeting was also attended by Dr Mustafa al-Sa'id, minister of economy and foreign trade; Dr Kamal al-Janzuri, minister of planning and international cooperation; 'Abd al-Hadi Qandil, minister of petroleum and mineral

resources; and Engineer Mahir Abazah, minister of electricity and energy.

Following the meeting, minister of inforamtion Safwat al-Sharif said that President Mubarak reviewed a report submitted by Prime Minister Kamal Hasan 'Ali on the progress of Egyptian-Jordanian talks currently taking place on the occasion of the visit of His Highness Crown Prince Hasan of the Hashemite Kingdom of Jordan and in continuation of talks that took place between President Mubarak and his majesty the king of Jordan during the president's visit to Jordan.

Al-Sharif added that the president issued instructions to provide all opportunities for bilateral cooperation in the political, economic, and cultural spheres.

Al-Sharif said that President Mubarak also reviewed the world oil situation in light of recent developments and the impact of these developments on Egypt, to ascertain that the development plan and its desired goals will be implemented.

Concluding his statement, Al-Sharif said that the president issued instructions for compressing government expenditure in the use of foreign currencies. At the Cabinet's first meeting, the ministers will discuss the ways and means of compressing expenditure in the use of foreign currencies.

Nile Valley Parliament Delegation To Visit Jordan

NC201754 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1722 GMT 20 Oct 84

[Text] Cairo, 20 Oct (MENA) — People's Assembly Speaker Dr Rif'at al-Mahjub stated today that he will visit Jordan during the next few days at the head of a high-level delegation of the Nile Valley Parliament to congratulate King Husayn on the restoration of relations between Egypt and Jordan and to thank him for making this wise decision.

Nile Valley Parliament Integration Committee Report

JN212140 Khartoum SUNA in Arabic 1430 GMT 21 Oct 84

[Text] Cairo, 21 Oct (SUNA) — At its fourth session here today, under the chairmanship of Parliament Speaker Dr Rif'at Mahjub and Alternate Speaker 'Izz al-Din al-Sayyid, the Nile Valley Parliament approved the report submitted by the Committee on Political Integration, National Security, and Foreign Relations. In its report, the committee reviewed the political and security situation in the Middle East and Africa in light of events, conditions, and changes in the Arab and African arenas and the national security strategy of the two integration states. It also reviewed various regional and international issues of mutual concern given special priority in the diplomacy of integration.

In its report, the committee referred to the statement made by Field Marshal Muhammad 'Abd al-Halim Abu Ghazalah, Egyptian deputy prime minister and minister of defense and war production, in which he dealt with the security situation in the region in light of the recent events, especially the mining of the Red Sea and the measures taken in this respect, the defense strategy of the two integration states, the security of the African Continent, and steps being taken by the Armed Forces of the two countries to bolster their defense capabilities.

The committee also referred to the statement made by Egyptian Foreign Minister 'Ismat 'Abd al-Majid in which he dealt with the efforts exerted over the past 2 years of integration to achieve the objectives and principles spelled out in the charter concerning foreign policy during the transitional period determined by the charter.

The committee affirmed the determination of the Nile valley people to continue with integration and work for unity through gradual, well-studied, scientific methods, out of loyalty to the struggle of past generations and souls sacrificed during this struggle.

The Committee on Political Integration, National Security, and Foreign Relations affirmed its belief that unity is the highest form of economic and social change and the peak of political action that can face internal and external challenges.

The committee also affirmed the Nile valley's determination for integration to promote the principles of nonalignment. "There is no room in the valley for subservience and polarization. Sovereignty over the land will only be for the people of the land."

The committe called on the Nile valley people to continue, as usual, to serve as strong support for the Arab and African peoples. It said that integration should be the prelude and nucleus for the unity of the Arab nation and the venue for Arab-African solidarity. It said that efforts should continue to build bridges of friendship with all nations and people that seek ties on the basis of mutual respect.

The committee also affirmed in its report the Nile valley's determination to remain a support for international legality and justice and continue to fight injustice and coercion everywhere.

The committee expressed its determination for integration to be a course toward stability not tension, unification and accord not divisions, and construction not destruction.

The committee also expressed its determination to proceed with firm, sure steps toward the achievement of a just and comprehensive peace in the region out of its full conviction that peace is the people's only option toward development, progress, and prosperity. The committee affirmed in its report that the freedom of the individual and the independence of his willpower and decision-making in the Nile valley can only be affirmed if he achieves self-sufficiency in food.

The committee announced that the national security of the Nile valley in its broad military, economic, and social meaning, is an indivisible whole. The economy is a support for the Armed Forces. It enables them to develop and increase their defense capability. Social security is very essential for creating an atmosophere of stability and security that is, in turn, essential for carrying out economic development programs.

The committee added that the work of achieving national security and freedom and asserting the independence of our willpower

begins by increasing production and achieving food self-sufficiency. It said that the present phase of building integration calls for raising two interlinked slogans — the slogan of increasing production to achieve national security, and the slogan of politicizing development by channeling foreign policy efforts toward promoting development programs.

The committee also stressed the need to exert all possible diplomatic effort to resume digging in the Jonglei Canal and provide all the technical, human, and security requirements for completing this important national project to which the Nile valley citizens attach great hopes for a better life. It also recommended opening new channels of communications between the two peoples of the Nile valley and removing all the administrative obstacles that prevent easy movement of peopl between the two parts of the valley. The committee also called for more popular cohesion beween the two peoples of the valley and to make integration a popular action and movement shouldered and protected by the masses a historic trust and responsibility.

The committee also confirmed that national security is based on the security of the valley, that has history taught us that Egypt's security is derived from Sudan's security and Sudan's security is derived from Egypt's security. The committee also announced that the Nile valley will not allow anyone to threaten this security.

The committee expressed full confidence in the Armed Forces, the faithful shield of the Arab nation and the African Continent, and its appreciation for their efforts and sacrifices in defending the security, safety, and stability of the Nile valley to which the two peoples of the valley aspire, so that they can support the march of development and prosperity.

The committee also greeted continued efforts to develop the Armed Forces and to support their defensive and combat capabilities. It recommended drawing up a joint defense and security strategy aimed at supporting the national security of the two countries to confront any threats and deter any aggression against their territories. It also recommended the need to secure a bond between the two countries' Armed Forces because such a bond would enable both countries to deal with the security issues with a single view. It also called for establishing a center for joint strategic studies between the two countries and for the need to achieve coordination regarding military industries.

The committee said that in the future the starting point for a comprehensive peace is a peaceful settlement of the Palestine question — a settlement to achieve the Palestinian people's legitimate rights to repatriation, self-determination, and the establishment of their state on their national soil with active participation of the PLO, their legitimate representative.

The committee called on the Palestinian leaders to quickly surmount the dilemma of the Palestinian struggle and settle their differences to restore the Palestinian struggle's strength, the effectiveness of the Palestinian will, and the Palestinian decision's independence.

The committee condemned the Israeli enemy's illegal actions in the occupied Arab territories which seek to wipe out the Palestinian people's identity and devour their land. The committee called on the international community to confront any plans aimed at liquidating the Palestine question. It also called for action to enable the Palestinian people to regain their legitimate rights.

The committee stressed concern for safeguarding Lebanon's Arabism, security, independence, and territorial integrity. It affirmed that continued Israeli occupation of the Lebanese territories poses a threat to the region's stability and security and constitutes an obstacle to the peace process in the region.

The Committee on Political Integration, National Security, and Foreign Relations called for the withdrawal of all forces whose continued presence in Lebanon is not agreed upon by the legitimate Lebanese authority. It also called for stopping interference in Lebanon's domestic affairs. It recommended promoting cooperation among the Nile basin states on bilateral and regional levels, entrenching the common affiliation among these states, and establishing an organizational bond among them to coordinate a common platform among these states.

Reportage on Visit of Italian Defense Minister

Spadolini Arrives in Cairo

NC192015 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1910 GMT 19 Oct 84

[Text] Cairo, 19 Oct (MENA) — Italian Defense Minister Giovanni Spadolini arrived in Cairo tonight heading a military delegation on a 3-day visit to Egypt. Spadolini, who will hold talks with senior Egyptian officials, was received at the airport by Staff Major General 'Umar Hammad, commander of the central military zone.

On arrival, the Italian defense minister said that he will discuss with Egyptian officials ways to enhance bilateral military cooperation and security in the Mediterranean. Talks on bilateral military cooperation will open tomorrow with Defense Minister Abu Ghazalah leading the Egyptian and Spadolini leading the Italian side.

The Italian minister will hold a news conference before leaving Cairo for home next Monday.

Spadolini, Abu Ghazalah Meet

NC201206 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1132 GMT 20 Oct 84

[Excerpts] Cairo, 20 Oct (MENA) — Military talks were held today by Field Marshal 'Abd al-Halim Abu Ghazalah, deputy prime minister and minister of defense and war production, and Italian Defense Minister Giovanni Spadolini. Following their 90-minute meeting, the Italian defense minister said that the conversation dealt with a number of issues, discussed in a cordial atmosphere, including bilateral political and military cooperation. Spadolini added that the Egyptian and Italian viewpoints on the Red Sea problem, the Iraqi-Iranian war, and the situation in the Horn of Africa were identical. He said that, in regard to all of these areas, Italy believes that Egypt has a vital role in achieving stability and peace in the region.

The Italian defense minister added: We discussed all questions related to bilateral political, military, and economic cooperation in detail, as well as aspects of bilateral cooperation in military industries and joint military production. In this respect, we can create a kind of integration between the military production systems in each of our two countries, coordinating between them for the benefit of both.

Responding to journalists, he noted: We discussed a number of military issues that require additional bilateral cooperation; these issues are the subject of ongoing discussions and we will announce them at the appropriate time.

Field Marshal Abu Ghazalah said that all political and military issues were discussed, and that the Middle East problems of interest to both countries were reviewed. The discussions also dealt with the provision to Egypt of Italian minesweepers, the role of Western Europe in the area, and all factors involved in bilateral military cooperation in war production. Abu Ghazalah added: We also discussed Italy's cooperation in the production of Egyptian tanks, and other issues.

Spadolini and Field Marshal Abu Ghazalah will hold a press conference on Monday morning at the conclusion of the Italian defense minister's visit to Egypt.

ANSA Reviews Defense Talks

AU201947 Rome ANSA in English 1935 GMT 20 Oct 84

[Text] (ANSA) Cairo, October 20 — Egypt's role in the Arab world and its importance for security in the Mediterranean were the chief topics discussed today by Defense Minister Abu Ghazalah and his visiting Italian counterpart Giovanni Spadolini. In their 2-hour encounter here, they touched on the Red Sea, the Iran-Iraq war, the Horn of Africa, southern Sudan, Libya and [word indistinct] for Italo-Egyptian co-production in the field of (?defense) needs.

The two nations are planning co-production of a [word indistinct] sounding out the possibilities of cooperation in naval supplies, missiles, electronics and helicopters as well.

At the end of their talk, Spadolini said that Egypt had reiterated its nonaligned stance as a reference point for Mediterranean stability and for contacts with the West. Egypt voiced its appreciation for Italy's help in making the waters of the Gulf of Suez safe for international shipping.

The two sides noted the complex and often contradictory political and military aspects of the Iran-Iraq war. Abu Ghazalah said that in the tormented region of the Horn of Africa, the position of Ethiopian leader Mengistu was (?difficult) in that, although he is not a communist, he is forced to align his policies with those of the Soviet Union.

Abu Ghazalah claimed that the situation in southern Sudan was not as bad as it seemed to the West. He said that Cairo believes that the actions of President Ja'far Numayri have a good chance of success.

Cairo's concern has somewhat lessened over hostile initiatives taken by Tripoli, Spadolini said.

Spadolini, Al-Majid Discuss Relations

NC211822 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1745 GMT 21 Oct 84

[Text] Cairo, 21 Oct (MENA) — Foreign Minister Dr 'Ismat 'Abd al-Majid this evening met with Italian Defense Minister Giovanni Spadolini, who is currently visiting Cairo. The meeting was attended by the Italian ambassador in Cairo.

Discussion during the meeting dealt with various international issues, particularly in the Middle East, including the Palestinian and the Lebanese issues and various efforts being exerted to establish peace in the area. The discussion also dealt with the European role in the peace process, bilateral relations between Egypt and Italy, and ways to strengthen these relations in various fields.

The Italian defense minister arrived in Cairo Friday night on a 3-day visit to Egypt.

Spadolini, Al-Majid Make Statements

NC212035 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1920 GMT 21 Oct 84

[Text] Cairo, 21 Oct (MENA) — Italian Defense Minister Giovanni Spadolini has stated that his talks this evening with Foreign Minister Dr 'Ismat 'Abd al-Majid were extremely cordial and positive, and that there is an identity of views on many points. Spadolini said he expressed to Dr 'Abd al-Majid his country's appreciation for the extremely important role Egypt is playing in achieving stability and security in the Mediterranean region and the Middle East.

He said the talks dealt with the situation in the Mediterranean region, the Middle East, and Africa, as well as Arab-Israeli and Egyptian-Israeli relations. Referring to the situation in Lebanon, the Italian defense minister pointed to his country's participation in the peacekeeping force there and affirmed his country's desire and endeavors to find a peaceful solution to the Lebanese problem that would achieve peace for all Lebanese people. Spadolini said his talks with Dr 'Abd al-Majid also dealt with subjects pertaining to bilateral cooperation and he praised the long-standing relations between the two countries.

Dr 'Abd al-Majid also made a statement in which he welcomed the Italian defense minister's visit to Egypt and his talks with him. The foreign minister lauded relations that exist between Egypt and Italy, and expressed Egypt's appreciation for the assistance Italy has provided in the Red Sea mine-clearing operation. He also expressed Egypt's appreciation for Italy's participation in the Multinational Force in Sinai. Dr 'Abd al-Majid said this illustrates the strong relations between Egypt and Italy and that the two countries are working in the international sphere for the establishment of peace and to strengthen bilateral relations.

The Italian defense minister is scheduled to visit Luxor tomorrow.

President Mubarak Receives Spadolini

NC220838 Cairo MENA in Arabic 0800 GMT 22 Oct 84

[Text] Cairo, 22 Oct (MENA) — President Muhammad Husni Mubarak received at Al-'Urubah Palace this morning Italian Defense Minister Giovanni Spadolini who is currently visiting Cairo. The meeting was attended by Field Marshal 'Abd al-Halim Abu Ghazalah, deputy prime minister and minister of defense and war production, and Italian ambassador in Cairo Elio Giuffrida.

Minister on Reduction of World Oil Prices

NC201219 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1204 GMT 20 Oct 84

[Text] Cairo, 20 Oct (MENA) — In an exclusive statement for MENA, 'Abd al-Hadi Qandil, oil and mineral resources minister, said today that he cut his official visit to the United States short and returned to Cairo to follow up on the world price of oil in light of changes that took place last week. The oil minister said the situation in the oil market is the result of a decision by a number of oil-producing countries to reduce the price of their crude. The foremost among these countries are the North Sea countries, Nigeria, and the Soviet Union.

Eng 'Abd al-Hadi Qandil added that the world oil market is currently witnessing competition intended to reduce the price of oil. He stressed that Egypt will make a decision in the next few days in line with its own interests. The oil minister called for a rectification of the situation through the pursuit of a unified policy to counter market reactions. He said that if a unified policy is applied, the price will rise again.

Romanian Oil Minister Arrives in Cairo

NC210955 Cairo MENA in Arabic 0940 GMT 21 Oct 84

[Text] Cairo, 21 Oct (MENA) — Romanian Oil Minister Gheorghe Vlad arrived in Cairo this morning on a visit to Egypt, during which he will hold talks with 'Abd al-Hadi Muhammad Qandil, minister of petroleum and mineral resources, on issues of concern to the two countries. The Romanian minister will also congratulate Qandil on his new post. Receiving the Romanian minister at the airport was geologist Husayn Kamil, chairman of the board of directors of the Egyptian General Petroleum Corporation.

Sudan's Numayri Leaves Hospital Following Surgery

JN201503 Khartoum SUNA in Arabic 1445 GMT 20 Oct 84

[Text] Cairo, 20 Oct (SUNA) — President of the Republic Ja'far Muhammad Numayri left Al-Ma'adi Hospital this morning after having recovered from his operation. President Numayri underwent surgery in Al-Ma'adi Hospital on 16 October to remove a bone protrusion from his right foot. President Numayri will spend 2 days in the city of Ismailia after which he will return home.

President Visits II Army Corps HQ 19 Oct

JN191647 Baghdad INA in Arabic 1618 GMT 19 Oct 84

[Text] Baghdad, 19 Oct (INA) — This morning President Saddam Husayn visited the II Army Corps' operational sector.

While at the II Army Corps' headquarters, the president heard a detailed report from several staff officers on the military situation in the sector and the crushing blows dealt to the retreating enemy remnants by our brave units.

The president also held several meetings with the staff officers that were partly attended by the chief of the Army staff. During these meetings, the president issued his instructions on various aspects of the battle and its preparations.

The president emphasized the necessity to teach the enemy harsh lessons, similar to those taught to it by our brave Army in previous lessons, until the enemy comes to its senses.

The president saw off several military formations and units that were on their way to join the battle against the enemy forces.

The fighters of these formations and units expressed their complete readiness to sacrifice their lives for the sake of preserving the homeland's honor and pure soil from the filth of the aggressors.

Tours Front 20 Oct

JN201650 Baghdad INA in Arabic 1608 GMT 20 Oct 84

[Text] Baghdad, 20 Oct (INA) — President Saddam Husayn paid a second visit to the front line of the II Army sector this morning. The president held a meeting with a number of staff officers and issued his directives to ensure the requirements of a decisive victory on the battlefield.

The president was briefed on the strong military position of the Iraqi forces in that sector and the Iraqi fighters' victories in defeating the Iranian offensive and crushing their concentrations.

The chief of staff and the II Army Corps commander attended part of the meeting.

The president saw off one of the Army formations before it carried out a counterattack on the enemy.

Returns From Front Line

JN201749 Baghdad INA in Arabic 1720 GMT 20 Oct 84

[Text] Baghdad, 20 Oct (INA) — President Saddam Husayn returned to Baghdad this evening after a visit to the front line of the II Army Corps sector of the battlefront for the second consecutive day.

This morning the president held a meeting with the corps' staff officers and issued his directives to ensure the requirements of a decisive victory on the battlefield.

Reportage on Counterattacks to Offensive

Commanders Interviewed on Offensive

GF191220 Baghdad Domestic Service in Arabic 1130 GMT 19 Oct 84

[Text] The commander of the Army II Corps has said that the attack by the Iranian enemy on some of the Al-Yarmuk forces is part of his deceptive tactics to divert attention away from his real intentions in the southern sector of the operations theater.

In an interview with Baghdad Radio and Voice of the Masses, he said that the efficiency of our valiant forces and their rapid reaction to the enemy's desperate attempt trapped him, causing the enemy to retreat in defeat.

The major general who commands the Army II Corps added: Our observations of the enemy forces and our knowledge of the enemy's malicious intentions, which aim to surround our forces, advance into our territory, and divert our attention away from his evil intentions in the southern sector, have enabled our forces to inflict heavy losses and capture prisoners.

He said if the enemy should repeat his aggression he will meet with the same inevitable fate.

The major general who commands the Al-Yarmuk forces pledged to President Saddam Husayn and the great Iraqi people to continue to consolidate the splendid victories achieved by the forces of right in their honorable battles in defense of the soil of the homeland.

The major general who commands the great Al-Badr forces asserted that the aggressor Iranian forces which attacked the Sayf Sa'd sector sustained thousands of casualties and a number of prisoners were captured.

In an interview with Baghdad Radio and Voice of the Masses today, the commander of the great Al-Badr forces said that the aggression by the forces of the charlatan regime of Iran against our forces in the Army II Corps sector was expected.

However, the enemy's objective was to achieve a part of his evil intentions, but, thanks to the alertness and valor of our forces, the enemy's hopes were dashed and a resounding defeat was inflicted upon him.

He added: In his attack on the Sayf Sa'd sector, which began on the day before yesterday with formations of his collapsing army and the guards of the charlatan Khomeyni, the enemy sought to throw into the battle a force whose strength is estimated at one infantry division and some armored units.

The commander of the great Al-Badr forces vowed to President Saddam Husayn in the name of the heroic Al-Badr forces to continue to crush the enemy forces and vowed that the battles of the Sayf Sa'd sector will consolidate our victories in the southern sector.

Downing of Aircraft Denied

JN191742 Baghdad INA in Arabic 1732 GMT 19 Oct 84

[Text] Baghdad, 19 Oct (INA) — Iraq has denied alleged Iranian reports about the downing of three Iraqi fighters, describing them as another deception by the Iranian rulers. In a statement to INA tonight, an official spokesman said these reports are baseless and that all the Iraqi aircraft have completely fulfilled their missions and returned safely.

906 Iranians Killed

JN191852 Baghdad Voice of the Masses in Arabic 1720 GMT 19 Oct 84

[Communique No 1,624 issued by the Armed Forces General Command on 19 October 1984]

[Text] In the name of God, the merciful, the compassionate. Our heroic Armed Forces, which have fought brave battles against the forces of the rancorous Iranian enemy and came out triumphant, will continue, with the help of God almighty and the vigor of its brave men, to be strong and solid and deal painful and devastating blows to the forces of the suspect Khomeyniite clique and inflict on the ranks of the invader aggressors the biggest losses and defeats. Their victories over the enemy forces shall continue. The results for yesterday evening and today are as follows:

1. This morning, our brave units continued to deal painful blows to the forces of the rancorous enemy, thereby tightening the noose around its collapsing remnants and defeated forces in the Sayf Sa'd area within the operational sector of the heroic II Army Corps. Our units recorded the most splendid epics of heroism by inflicting on the invader aggressors large numbers of dead and wounded, destroying large quantities of arms and military equipment, and seizing serviceable arms and equipment. The enemy's visible losses before another of our heroic formations were 906. This is in addition to what was mentioned in the communique that was issued last night. Their bodies are still littering the battlefield. Thus, enemy dead for yesterday and today total 1,829. This is in addition to large numbers of wounded soldiers and destroyed arms, equipment, tanks, vehicles, and various other weapons. We will give you more details on enemy losses in personnel and equipment subsequently.

2. With overwhelming superiority and complete control of the battle's air space and in accordance with a brilliant coordinated plan, the brave eagles of our fighter aircraft carried out throughout the day today crushing lightning strikes against enemy units and personnel concentrations in the Sayf Sa'd area within the operational sector of the II Army Corps. They inflicted heavy losses on enemy personnel, equipment, and arms. They left behind them columns of smoke and resounding explosions and turned enemy equipment, vehicles, and arms into cinders. Our brave fighter planes played a significant role in supporting our brave units by destroying and crushing enemy forces and inflicting more dead and wounded on enemy personnel and remnants. All our aircraft returned safely with God's care after they had performed their duty with great precision and courage. Our fighter aircraft carried out 149 combat missions today.

3. Since this morning, the brave cavaliers of our helicopters have been carrying out bold operations in the battlefield alongside our brave forces against the retreating enemy forces in the II Army Corps' operational sector. They dealt crushing blows to the remnants of the defeated Khomeyniite clique and inflicted heavy damage to enemy armor and equipment and heavy losses to its units.

The cavaliers returned with their aircraft, leaving heavy smoke columns and flames rising from enemy vehicles and the positions of its humbled, destroyed, and damaged weapons. Our brave helicopters carried out 33 combat missions today.

4. A group of our brave soldiers carried out a successful operation in the Iranian interior in the northern operational sector and managed to capture two enemy soldiers who were removed to the rear.

More Iranian civilians fleeing from the hell of charlatan Khomeyni and the injustice of its clique sought refuge with our units in the same sector.

5. At 1040 today, a formation of planes belonging to our Army directed a very effective strike at enemy engineering equipment in the Maysan operational sector, scoring direct hits.

Flames and columns of smoke were seen rising from the enemy targets that were hit. All our planes returned safely after having successfully performed their duty, God be praised.

6. The cruel enemy yesterday evening and this morning shelled with heavy artillery a civilian area in the outskirts of Basra and in Qazanqaya in the Mandali district.

Some 12 rockets fell in the two aforementioned areas.

[Signed] The Armed Forces General Command, 19 October 1984

New Iranian Offensive 'Stopped'

JN200649 Baghdad Voice of the Masses in Arabic 0634 GMT 20 Oct 84

[Text] A military spokesman has stated the following: In the name of God, the merciful, the compassionate. The enemy again attacked our units in Sayf Sa'd in the II Army Corps' operational sector at 0300 today [2400 GMT 19 October].

Our valiant units foiled its intentions after inflicting massive losses in men and equipment. Despite the magnitude of the offensive, the enemy could not get a foothold except in the position of two forward companies belonging to one of the units of the 4th Infantry Brigade in this sector.

The offensive was stopped and our valiant units are preparing to carry out a counterattack. The aggressors shall be crushed, with the help of Almighty God, in the same manner as they were crushed before. Victory comes only from the mighty, wise God.

[Dated] 20 October 1984

Counterattack Regains 'Targets'

JN201804 Baghdad Voice of the Masses in Arabic 1700 GMT 20 Oct 84

[Communique No 1,625 issued by the Armed Forces General Command on 20 October 1984]

[Text] In the name of God, the merciful, the compassionate. One day we shall seize you with a mighty onslaught: We will indeed then exact retribution. [Koranic verse]

O brave Iraqis, O valiant Armed Forces fighters, O glorious, free Iraqi women. When the arrogant ones become inflated with vanity and float on soap bubbles, the proud Iraqis stand up to teach them a well-deserved lesson. No sooner had the covetous ones infiltrated your territory to reach simple targets in the II Army Corps sector, and before our brave forces had begun their counterattack, than the charlatan Khomeyniite henchmen began telling the world and their people's false claims and allegations. Their illusions have reached so great an extent that they have drawn a straight line between their falling companies on the II Army Corps front and Baghdad in an attempt to convince their henchmen that to occupy Baghdad is very simple.

The peoples of the world are aware that the evildoers and charlatans in Iran do not know the elementary principles of geometry or geography. They imagined that Baghdad could be an easy prey just because they could draw an imaginary line between the II Army Corps and Baghdad. They will be accursed. Our beautiful, dear Baghdad will remain proud of its values and the sacrifices of its men. It will not be desecrated by the hands of charlatans and aggressors.

O glorious Iraqis: Your truthful sons, the guards of the tombs of your forefathers, have buried the dreams of the allies of Zionism and have, with God's help, regained all the targets, about which the charlatans have raised such a furor. This was carried out through a daring offensive between 1600 and 1800 today [1300-1500 GMT] by implementing a counterattack.

Over the past 3 days, they wiped out enemy forces including: the 139th Infantry Regiment of the 1st Brigade of the 84th Division, the 111th Infantry Regiment of the 1st Brigade of the 84th Division, the 244th Tank Regiment, a Guards Brigade of the 5th Division, an independent brigade of charlatan Khomeyni guards, the main part of the 1st Armored Brigade of the 81st Armored Division, and the main part of the 3d Armored Brigade of the 81st Division.

It is good news for you, O great Iraqis. It is good tidings for all honorable men in the world. It is your message to the 20th century charlatan. This message says: Kneel down before the calls of truth and peace, or else go away. May God disgrace you and your efforts.

O Iraqis. Your glory and your territory will remain yours. If ye will aid the cause of God, he will aid you and plant your feet firmly. [Koranic verse] God has fulfilled his promise.

[Signed] The Armed Forces General Command, 20 October 1984

Corps Commander on Counterattack

JN210738 Baghdad INA in Arabic 0650 GMT 21 Oct 84

[Excerpt] Baghdad, 21 Oct (INA) — The staff major general in command of the II Army Corps has stated that infantry and armored forces participated in the Iraqi Armed Forces attack against Iranian forces in Sayf Sa'd yesterday afternoon.

In a press statement today, the Iraqi commander said that the Iranian forces sustained heavy losses in this attack, pointing out that during the battles of the past 3 days four brigades and three regiments were destroyed. He explained that the Iraqi command knew about the Iranian forces' movements in the II Army Corps sector, adding that the Iranian forces found themselves facing an intensive barrage of fire.

270 Iranians Reported Killed

JN211802 Baghdad Voice of the Masses in Arabic 1700 GMT 21 Oct 84

[Communique No 1,626 issued by the Armed Forces General Command on 21 October 1984]

[Text] In the name of God, the merciful, the compassionate. Running away will not profit you if you are running away from death or slaughter. [Koranic verse] In their exploitation of our brave forces' overwhelming victory over the collapsing Khomeyniite clique, the armies of the Iraqi people continue to chase the retreating remnants at their concentration points, affirming that whoever dares to violate the border of brave Iraq must pay a heavy price and also know that the outcome of such evil intentions will only be violent death. The results of the activities in the various operational sectors are as follows:

1. Using all weapons, our brave units continue to powerfully strike at enemy positions and personnel and Army concentration points in front of their positions in the II Army Corps' operational sector, inflicting on the despotic aggressors heavy losses to be added to their losses of the past 3 days. Enemy forces sustained large numbers of dead and wounded. Moreover, quantities of arms, vehicles, and various equipment were destroyed. The enemy's visible losses before one of our formations in Sayf Sa'd following yesterday's operations reached 270 dead and large numbers of wounded. Thus the enemy's visible losses since the beginning of its offensive on this sector have reached 2,099 dead and large numbers of wounded and prisoners. Large quantities of arms, vehicles, and various equipment were also destroyed, and a large quantity of serviceable arms and equipment was seized. We will give you the other enemy losses as soon as they are counted.

2. Our Air Force planes carried out several bombing operations against enemy personnel concentration points and equipment in the east Tigris, central, and northern sectors. The homeland's brave eagles poured the Iraqi people's legitimate anger on their renegade enemies, turning those sent by Khomeyni into mutilated burned bodies. All our fighter planes returned to their bases safe and victorious, God be praised. They carried out 123 combat missions today.

3. Our brave helicopters today carried out successful intensive raids on enemy units and equipment in the II Army Corps' operational sector, scoring direct and very effective hits, inflicting on the enemy forces large numbers of dead and wounded, and destroying quantities of arms and equipment.

In the Maysan operational sector, the brave cavaliers of our helicopters dealt painful blows to enemy positions and personnel and succeeded in sinking an enemy boat and killing its occupants, as well as destroying a number of medium weapons and killing their crews.

All our helicopters returned safe and victorious, God be praised.

The helicopters carried out 41 combat operations today.

4. Our forward units opened heavy fire from artillery and other weapons on enemy positions and personnel concentration points in the east of Basra operational sector, destroying several positions for arms and personnel and one observation post and setting fire to other enemy positions.

5. Fleeing from the tyranny and savageness of the criminal rulers in Qom and Tehran, new numbers of Iranian soldiers sought refuge with our forward units in the northern operational sector.

They were safely evacuated to the rear.

[Signed] The Armed Forces General Command 21 October 1984

Further on Iranian Losses

JN221120 Baghdad Domestic Service in Arabic 1028 GMT 22 Oct 84

[Unscheduled announcement]

[Text] A military spokesman has stated the following:

In the name of God, the merciful, the compassionate. Complementary to our Communique No 1,626, it has been ascertained that visible enemy losses before another Iraqi formation in the II Army Corps sector as a result of our operations in the Sayf Sa'd area are: 400 killed; and 9 tanks, 2 vehicles, and 2 antiaircraft guns destroyed.

This is in addition to the enemy losses mentioned in our previous communiques.

Thus, the visible enemy losses in personnel have reached 2,499 killed, many more wounded, and many others captured.

As a result of our brave Air Force strikes, the visible losses sustained by the enemy amount to the destruction of 450 vehicles of various types, 100 radios, 6 personnel carriers, and 6 mortars

God is great. Victory for the Iraqi soldiers who fight for their land and the safety of their people. Victory comes from God.

[Dated] 22 October 1984.

Foreign Ministry Statement on POW Release

JN201911 Baghdad Domestic Service in Arabic 1700 GMT 20 Oct 84

[Foreign Ministry spokesman announcement on 20 October 1984]

[Text] Based on Iraqi initiative and the RCC decision on the occasion of 'Id al-Adha, 100 Iranian POW's were handed over to the Iranian authorities this morning in exchange for nothing.

The POW transfer was carried out in Ankara under the supervision of the International Committee of the Red Cross.

Iraq's transfer of Iranian POW's without receiving anything in return is in harmony with Iraq's humanitarian policy, the principles of its leading party, the Arab Socialist Ba'th Party, and in implementation of its international commitments, particularly the 1949 Geneva rules concerning POW's.

This gesture comes at a time when the spiteful Iranian rulers continue their aggression against our independence and the sanctity of our territory. By this humanitarian step, Iraq is again proving to the whole world and to the Iranian people in particular its peaceful intentions and its commitment to international law.

This gesture comes at a time when our heroic soldiers are teaching the defeated enemy forces lessons in bravery and capability, thus affirming that Iraq's repeated calls for peace stem from a position of strength and from the supreme values in which Iraq believes and for which the Iraqis fight.

Foreign Minister Tariq 'Aziz Returns From USSR

JN200702 Baghdad INA in Arabic 0655 GMT 20 Oct 84

[Text] Baghdad, 20 Oct (INA) — Tariq 'Aziz, deputy prime minister and foreign minister, returned to Baghdad last night after a 1-day visit to the USSR.

'Aziz held talks with Soviet officials on cooperation and friendship between the two countries, the situation in the region, and the continuing Iranian aggression against Iraq.

Syrian Connection Denied

GF191420 Manama WAKH in Arabic 1405 GMT 19 Oct 84

[Excerpt] Baghdad, 19 Oct (WAKH) — An Iraqi official source dismissed reports indicating that the visit being undertaken by Tariq 'Aziz, Iraqi deputy prime minister and foreign minister, to Moscow is associated with the visit of Syrian President Hafiz al-Asad to the Soviet Union.

The source told the WAKH correspondent in Baghdad that the time of the visit was set some time ago.

The visit is designed to discuss Iraqi-Soviet relations in light of the agreements signed between the two countries in the fields of economic, technical, and military cooperation.

Official Returns From Moscow, Makes Statement
JN201047 Baghdad INA in Arabic 1020 GMT 20 Oct 84

[Text] Baghdad, 20 Oct (INA) — Oil Ministry Under Secretary 'Isam 'Abd al-Rahim and his delegation returned here from Moscow last night at the end of a visit to the Soviet Union. In a statement to INA, 'Abd al-Rahim said he had participated in weeklong meetings of the Iraqi-Soviet permanent committee for economic, scientific, and technical cooperation which concluded its work there. The meetings resulted in the signing of the minutes on economic and technical cooperation between Iraq and the Soviet Union in the interest of the two friendly peoples.

He pointed out that specialized subcommittees stemming from the joint committee also met: the subcommittees on irrigation and agriculture, fishing wealth, energy, industry, oil, scientific cooperation, training of cadres, commerce, and electricity. The two sides also discussed progress at the projects being implemented by Soviet technical teams in Iraq, in addition to the scope of future bilateral cooperation.

The delegation comprised representatives from the Ministries of Industry, Irrigation, Oil, Trade, Agriculture, and Planning, in addition to the Scientific Research Council.

National Assembly Elections Begin 20 Oct
JN200556 Baghdad Domestic Service in Arabic 0400 GMT 20 Oct 84

[Text] With the break of dawn today, 20 October, the masses of our great people are going to the ballot boxes to elect their representatives to the second term of the National Assembly. This action is part of the largest democratic experience being witnessed by our struggling country under the glorious 17-30 July revolution.

It is no coincidence that the Iranian aggressors launched their new aggression prior to the elections, imagining that their aggression would dissuade the glorious Iraqis from exercising their electoral rights in complete freedom and with enlightened will. Our people, while heading for the electoral centers today, renew their determination to continue the march of construction, development, and transformation with the same determination and power with which the soldiers of leader Saddam Husayn are continuing the battle of defending the homeland, revolution, and destiny.

250 Elected to Assembly
JN211506 Baghdad INA in Arabic 1440 GMT 21 Oct 84

[Text] Baghdad, 21 Oct (INA) — The final results of the Iraqi National Assembly elections held yesterday were announced here today. The results show that 250 out of the 785 male and female candidates won membership in the Assembly.

The results also show that more than 7,171,000 male and female voters from 56 constituencies all over Iraq took part in the elections.

Assembly membership was won by several ministers, some members of the parties constituting the Progressive National Patriotic Front, all the presidents of popular and professional organizations, and several independent candidates.

Those who won in the elections include Dr Sa'dun Hammadi, member of the Arab Socialist Ba'th Party Regional Command and minister of state at the presidency; Dr Mundhir Ibrahim [al-Shawi], minister of justice; 'Abd al-Qadir 'Izz al-Din, minister of education; Babakr Muhammad Rasul, minister of labor and social affairs; and Arshad Ahmad Muhammad [al-Zibari], minister of state.

Others elected to the Assembly include Baha' al-Din Ahmad Faraj, deputy speaker of the National Assembly in its previous session; 'Abd al-Qadir 'Abd al-Razzaq Amin, secretary of the Assembly; Sa'd Qasim Hammudi, president of the Arab Journalists Federation and dean of Iraqi journalists; Ahmad Muhsin 'Alwan, president of the General Federation of Trade Unions; Humayd Sa'id, chief editor of *AL-THAWRAH*; Manal Tunis, president of the Iraqi Women Federation; Nuri 'Uthman Faraj, president of the General Federation of Peasant Cooperative Societies; and Hamid Salih, dean of Iraqi lawyers.

Some 33 women from various Iraqi governorates, including 11 from the Baghdad Governorate, won membership in the National Assembly in its new session.

A statement issued by the higher committee that supervised the elections said that the democracy exercised yesterday confirmed the deep, strong national unity witnessed by Iraq.

The elections were supervised by several committees representing the Ministry of Justice, the Ministry of Local Government, the Arab Socialist Ba'th Party, the Progressive National Patriotic Front, and the local committee in each constituency.

All essential comforts were provided for the voters, including health services and transportation from distant areas to the voting centers.

The National Assembly debates bills that are referred to it by the president of the republic.

These bills are then sent to the RCC for final approval.

The Assembly can revoke any decision.

Senate Condemns U.S. Embassy Transfer Plan
JN211047 Amman SAWT AL-SHA'B in Arabic 21 Oct 84 p 8

[Ahmad Dhiban dispatch]

[Excerpts] The Senate has condemned the U.S. Congress' decision recommending that the U.S. Administration transfer the U.S. Embassy from Tel Aviv to Jerusalem. In a statement issued at the end of a session it held yesterday under Senate President Ahmad al-Lawzi and attended by Prime Minister Ahmad 'Ubaydat and ministers, the Senate described the decision adopted by Congress as blatant defiance of Muslim sentiments everywhere.

Following this, Zayd al-Rifa'i, spokesman of the Foreign Relations Committee, read the committee's decision concerning the U.S. Congress' decision. The decision says:

In the name of God, the merciful, the compassionate.

The Jordanian Senate has examined the U.S. Congress' decision recommending that the U.S. Administration transfer the U.S. Embassy from Tel Aviv to Jerusalem. The Senate considers this a blatant provocation to Muslim sentiments everywhere, an overt bias toward the Israeli enemy against the Arab nation in general and the Palestinian people in particular, and a blatant violation of UN resolutions, specifically UN General Assembly Resolution No 2,253, issued on 4 July 1967, viewing Israel's measures to change the status of Jerusalem as null and void and calling on Israel to cancel these measures and changes; UN General Assembly Resolution No 2,254 issued on 14 July 1967 condemning Israel for not abiding by the former UN General Assembly resolution and urging Israel to abide by the resolutions issued in this respect; UN Security Council Resolution No 242 issued on 22 November 1967, which stipulated the inadmissibility of the seizure of others' land by force and which called on Israel to withdraw from the occupied territories; UN Security Council Resolution No 252 issued on 21 May 1968 on the illegality of changing the current status of Jersualem, as it is an indivisible part of the occupied territories — a resolution issued unanimously by the UN Security Council and which was not opposed even by the United States; and UN Security Council Resolution No 267 issued on 3 July 1969 condemning and denouncing all Israeli measures to change the charter and status of Jerusalem and calling on Israel to cancel all the measures it had taken in this respect and to abide by the provisions of this resolution and implement it, given that it is a UN member. This resolution was issued unanimously by the UN Security Council, including the United States. The UN Security Council confirmed these resolutions in its Resolutions Nos 446 and 452 issued in 1979 and in its Resolution No 476 issued on 30 June 1980.

The Jordanian Senate denounces and condemns this U.S. decision, which is a blatant deviation from international law and a defiance of freedom-, justice-, and peace-loving people. The Senate also denounces the U.S. Congress' decisions to provide more financial, economic, military, and political aid to Israel while it continues to occupy Arab territories and practices the most barbaric forms of oppression against the Arab people in these territories and persists in changing their character and status.

In spite of all the Israeli methods of deception and U.S. claims, no one can deny that the major U.S. financial assistance has financed and continues to finance Israel's aggression against the Arab territories and helps in prolonging the occupation of southern Lebanon and the building of settlements in the West Bank, the Gaza Strip, and the Golan. This aggression and occupation as well as the settlements constitute insurmountable obstacles to a just settlement and peace in the Middle East. Unless this large U.S. financial assistance is suspended, Israel will pursue its aggression, its defiance of international resolutions, and its disavowal of the Palestinian peopie's legitimate rights.

The Senate asks the Jordanian Government to communicate this decision to the U.S. Administration and Congress through the appropriate diplomatic channels. The Senate also asks the Jordanian Government to contact the Arab League, the ICO, and the Nonaligned Movement so that member countries in these organizations raise this topic with the U.S. Administration and Congress in conformity with the many resolutions that Islamic and Arab conferences as well as Nonaligned conferences have adopted in this respect.

The Senate decided to entrust the head of the Jordanian parliamentary branch with contacting Arab parliamentary branches and the IPU to condemn this U.S. decision and raise the issue in the next IPU conference so that appropriate stands can be taken to confront this decision in harmony with the decisions the IPU has adopted.

Senate Decision Approved
JN211043 Amman Domestic Service in Arabic 0500 GMT 21 Oct 84

[From the press review]

[Text] Under the headline "Jerusalem Is Light and Fire," *AL-RA'Y* says: No matter how yesterday's Senate decision is interpreted, it should be a clear warning to the U.S. policymakers that the Congress' recommendation to transfer the U.S. Embassy from Tel Aviv to Jerusalem is playing with fire. It is a challenge to the beliefs, holy shrines, and heritage of the Arabs and Muslims which no Arab or Muslim can tolerate. Jerusalem with its Al-Aqsa mosque, Church of the Holy Sepulchre, various holy places and history, and its cultural affiliation is too noble, dignified, and sublime to be used in the U.S. elections by congressmen who are panting after Jewish voters. Moreover, the darkness that shrouds the holy city as a result of the chains of occupation and the practices of the aggressors — darkness that enabled the transgressors to bargain with its future — will one day become a shining light and a fire that will burn the fingers of the aggressors, transgressors, and those who are deeply involved.

AL-RA'Y says: The Arabs and Muslims are fed up with the cheap, dangerous game of occasionally hinting at presenting Jerusalem to Israel through transferring the U.S. Embassy from Tel Aviv to Jerusalem. Neither the United States nor any other force on earth can extract Jerusalem from the Muslim's belief and the Arab conscience. On the contrary, the irrational and irresponsible provocative practices of bargaining with and bid-

ding over Jerusalem and its future will bring the day closer when the trumpet of the real holy war is sounded and when the Arabs and Muslims will have only one choice — to smash the chains from around Jerusalem with its own hands and cleanse it with their bodies and souls regardless of the sacrifices and price.

AL-RA'Y concludes: The U.S. policymakers will be making a mistake if they believe that the current Arab state of affairs will remain unchanged and that the Arab and Islamic capabilities will continue to be divided and dismembered. History is full of lessons confirming that on more than one occasion the Arabs and Muslims were capable of mobilizing their forces and confronting the challenges. These lessons also confirm that immense tribulations and conspiracies in the past have failed to eliminate the existence and future of the Arabs and Muslims. Dawn must surely rise over Jerusalem and the region, much to the disgust and disapproval of the adventurers and bidders.

Prince Hasan, Delegation Leave For Cairo

JN201033 Amman Domestic Service in Arabic 1000 GMT 20 Oct 84

[Text] Amman — At the invitation of President Muhammad Husni Mubarak, Their Royal Highnesses Crown Prince Hasan and Princess Thawrwat left Amman this morning for Cairo on an official visit to Egypt that will last several days. The crown prince will meet with the Egyptian president and hold comprehensive political, economic, and trade talks with senior Egyptian officials on developing bilateral cooperation and on issues of common interest. The crown prince will also open a symposium on scientific cooperation between Jordan and Egypt and will chair meetings of the Jordanian-Egyptian joint committee which will begin today and which will deal with economic, agricultural, and trade affairs and relations between the two countries.

Crown Prince Hasan is accompanied by a large official delegation consisting of Court Minister 'Adnan Abu 'Awdah; Industry, Trade, and Tourism Minister Dr Jawad al-Anani; Agriculture Minister Muhammad Bashir; Chairman of the Royal Academy for Islamic Civilization Research-Aal al-Bayt Foundation Dr Nasir al-Din Asad; presidents and professors of universities; the senior press representative; members of the Jordanian delegation to the symposium on scientific cooperation between Jordan and Egypt, and the Jordanian-Egyptian joint committee.

The crown prince was seen of at the airport by the Senate president, the House speaker, the chief chamberlain, the commander in chief of the Jordanian Armed Forces, the foreign minister, the secretary general of the Royal Hashemite Court, and a number of officials.

Information Minister Views U.S., USSR, Mideast

GF221023 Manama WAKH in Arabic 0840 GMT 21 Oct 84

[Text] Riyadh, 21 Oct (QNA) — Information Minister Layla Sharaf has said that a just and comprehensive peace in the Middle East can be established only under international auspices, that is, through an international conference in which all the parties to the dispute — as well as the great powers, including the United States and the Soviet Union — will participate.

In an interview with the Saudi paper *AL-MADINAH* published today the Jordanian minister said that such a conference is the best way to regain the usurped rights of the peoples of the area. She said that Jordan does not accept any partial withdrawal from the West Bank and that it adheres to UN Security Council Resolution 242, which provides for the liberation of the Arab territories occupied in 1967.

Mrs Sharaf praised Jordanian-Saudi relations and emphasized the importance of the Saudi role in the Arab homeland on both the Islamic and international levels. She asserted that Saudi Arabia will play a big and important role in unifying the Arabs during the forthcoming Arab summit conference.

Referring to Jordan's relations with Egypt, Mrs Sharaf said that the restoration of Jordan's relations with Egypt was a result of Jordan's belief that the new course pursued by Egypt is in line with Arab causes.

Referring to Jordanian-U.S. relations the Jordanian information minister said that they are not good as they could be, but these relations are continuing and have not been severed. She said Jordan's relations with the Soviet Union are good. Mrs Sharaf said that the experience of buying arms from Moscow was successful and that the Soviet Union has offered Jordan new weapons.

Referring to the Iraqi-Iranian war, the Jordanian minister urged Muslim countries to take a firmer stand and exert pressure on the side that has not accepted peace.

British Defense Secretary Heseltine Arrives

JN200750 Amman JORDAN TIMES in English 20 Oct 84 pp 1, 3

[By Salamah B. Ni'mat, staff reporter]

[Text] Amman — British Defence Secretary Michael Heseltine arrived in Aqaba Friday for a four-day official visit to Jordan during which he will discuss with Jordanian officials possible British arms sales to the Kingdom, British Embassy officials said Friday. Officials who asked not to be identified said Mr Heseltine's stay in Aqaba was private and that he would start his formal meetings with Jordanian officials on Monday. During his visit here, Mr Heseltine is expected to discuss the possibilities of providing Jordan with "a variety of arms," a British Embassy spokesman told the *JORDAN TIMES* recently. Britain has the alternative to the U.S. Stinger missiles which Washington decided earlier this year not to provide to the Kingdom. The British-manufactured Javelin missiles are similar to the U.S. Stingers which are considered vital for the Kingdom's air defences. Jordan approached many countries for arms to satisfy its defence needs which include anti-aircraft batteries, fighter jets and other arms. Mr Heseltine is scheduled to fly to Cairo on Tuesday for similar talks and returning to London on Saturday. British Defence Ministry Spokesman Graham Hammond, quoting a ministry statement said Mr Heseltine's Middle East trip

was part of continuing high-level contacts with Jordan and Egypt. Mr Heseltine is here at the invitation of Armed Forces Commander-in-Chief General Sharif Zayd ibn Shakir within Jordanian high-level contacts with East as well as West European countries.

Saudis Pay Final 1984 Financial Aid Installment
JN201642 Amman Domestic Service in Arabic 1600 GMT 20 Oct 84

[Text] Dr 'Abd al-Majid al-Qasim, Ministry of Finance under secretary, has said that the Government of the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia has kindly paid Jordan this year's third and last installment as part of the Arab financial aid that was decided by the Baghdad summit conference. Al-Qasim has praised the firm pan-Arab positions that the Government of the fraternal Kingdom of Saudi Arabia has adopted in order to fulfill its fraternal commitments on the fixed dates, a fact that contributed to strengthening Jordan's national economy and the continuation of its militant role.

Legislator Decides To Withdraw Resignation
JN200834 Amman SAWT AL-SHA'B in Arabic 20 Oct 84 p 1

[Text] Al-Karak — Informed sources in Al-Karak say that Dr Riyad al-Nawayisah, member of the Hosue of Representatives from Al-Karak Governorate, has responded to the wishes of Al-Karak citizens and decided to withdraw his resignation from the House of Representatives. Dr al-Nawayisah tendered his resignation to House Speaker 'Akif al-Fayiz on Tuesday.

French Envoy Conveys Message; Departs Amman 19 Oct
JN200812 Amman AL-RA'Y in Arabic 20 Oct 84 p 1

[Text] Amman — PETRA — De Grossouvres, the French president's envoy and special adviser, left Amman yesterday after a visit to Jordan during which he conveyed a message from French President Francois Mitterrand to His Majesty King Husayn. The French envoy was seen off at the airport by Raja'i al-Dajani, secretary general of the Royal Hashemite Court, and the French ambassador in Amman.

Karami Previews 22 Oct Cabinet Meeting

NC201539 Beirut Domestic Service in Arabic 1400 GMT 20 Oct 84

[Excerpts] The weekly working meeting between President al-Jumayyil and Prime Minister Rashid Karami ended at 1420 today. The discussion during the meeting focused on preparations for the Cabinet meeting, which will be held on Monday [22 October], and on the economic situation in the country.

At 1330, President al-Jumayyil and Prime Minister Karami summoned 'Adnan al-Qassar, head of the Beirut Chamber of Commerce and Industry, and Antoine Shadir, head of the Banks Association. They discussed with them the economic and monetary situation in Lebanon in light of developments in the money market and the crazy rise in the rate of the U.S. dollar. Agreement was reached on a series of specific measures.

After the meeting, Prime Minister Karami made the following statement:

[Begin recording] [Karami] We and his excellency the president reviewed the situation in Lebanon and we decided to hold a Cabinet meeting at 1000 on Monday in B'abda. We decided to hold a Cabinet meeting because of the responsibility we shoulder, the need to deal with the situation in order to avert potentially serious consequences of the current situation, and as a result of our current contacts. The meeting will be held in order to draft an agenda for Cabinet discussions based on the government policy statement.

Regarding the economic and monetary situation, the Cabinet will have to discuss the adoption of appropriate and concrete decisions on every level.

[Unidentified reporter] Mr Prime Minister, you also met with officials concerned with the economic and monetary situation. Especially after the spiraling rise in the rate of the U.S. dollar, have you adopted any new measures in this regard?

[Karami] There are a number of measures which must be adopted to deal with this situation. I do not want to talk about the justifications and reasons for this situation, but measures are needed to curb this unreasonable and unjustifiable rise. I hope that these matters will soon be clarified.

[Reporter] [Words indistinct]

[Karami] I said that contacts have been going on over the past few days and that the Cabinet meeting was decided upon in light of these contacts. I hope that all of this will be a positive thing. [end recording]

Karami Rejects Direct Talks With Israel

NC210831 Beirut Voice of Lebanon in Arabic 0815 GMT 21 Oct 84

[Text] Prime Minister Rashid Karami has stressed that Lebanon does not object to holding talks under UN supervision to bring about Israel's withdrawal from the south, western Al-Biqa', and Rashayya, but categorically rejects any direct meeting with Israel. He called on the Lebanese to unite in order to ensure that Israel withdraws from the south.

Birri Comments on Political, Security Issues

NC201946 Beirut Domestic Service in Arabic 1630 GMT 20 Oct 84

[Excerpts] Minister Nabih Birri held a news conference at noon today in which he dealt with a number of current economic, political, and security issues.

Asked about the solution which he envisages as saving the country from its ordeal, Minister Birri said: The entire country is at a crossroads. The extent of the adherence to the principles which we have agreed upon will govern my participation in the government. The political solution, Minister Birri added, must go hand-in-hand with the security solution. Within 7 or 10 years we will see measures on the ground in Beirut that will change the existing anarchy.

He was asked: There is much talk about an imminent Israeli withdrawal and there are international meetings based on the expectation of an Israeli withdrawal. What is your information in this regard?

Minister Birri replied: My information is that an Israeli withdrawal is imminent, but Israel wants to withdraw according to its own terms.

We say that we will not accept any direct military or nonmilitary negotiations. The United Nations must play the principal role. The United Nations should be at the head of the table, as was the case at the conclusion of the truce agreements. The UN forces should deploy up to the international borders and not inside them.

Once again he was asked about the situation in West Beirut. As a justice minister, how is it possible to end this wave of anarchy?

He replied: As a justice minister, I say that justice must take its course. The judiciary cannot be accused of shortcomings. If there are no security and Army forces to implement a sentence, it will remain a mere verdict. What is the value of any sentence if it is not accompanied by implementation? Justice can take its course when security exists and the implementation of sentences is possible. The solution with regard to what is happening in West Beirut, the southern suburb, and even in all Beirut, lies in the collection of light weapons just as the heavy weapons were collected.

He was asked: Are you optimistic or pessimistic?

Minister Birri replied: In the final analysis, this country will survive; the unity of Lebanon will survive; the south will remain Lebanese; and this country will be reunited despite the suffering. The problem is not easy, and will not be solved within 1 or 3 days, but, in the final analysis, I am optimistic.

In reply to a question about holding a Cabinet meeting in light of recent contacts, Minister Birri said: We will always be ready

to attend Cabinet sessions when it becomes clear to us that the regime is prepared to resume discussing political reforms, for which we joined the Cabinet.

He was asked: Does this mean that your attendance at the Cabinet meeting is conditional on a discussion of the reforms issue?

He replied: We started discussing the issue, but we have not completed the discussion. We are demanding the resumption of the discussion.

He was asked: If the nationalist demands are not met, will the opposition ministers resign?

He replied: Not at all. We are not prepared to do that, and no one would be happy about it.

We shall never resign. We shall stay on and struggle politically.

In reply to a question about military concentrations in Beirut, Minister Birri said: When the security plan was implemented in Beirut we said that there would be no more fighting in Greater Beirut.

In reply to another question, Minister Birri emphatically denied that skirmishes have taken place between Army brigades along the Beirut contact lines.

Replying to a question, Minister Birri pointed out that the opposition is demanding that the government policy statement be studied and an agenda of topics for discussion be prepared. He said we discussed this matter at our meeting today with Marwan Hamadah, Rafiq al-Hariri, and Dr Sabah al-Haj.

Foreign Tours by Birri, Junblatt Noted

NC211037 (Clandestine) Voice of the Mountain in Arabic to Lebanon 1000 GMT 21 Oct 84

[Text] Walid Junblatt is expected to leave Lebanon on a tour that will include a number of East European countries. The tour may include Czechoslovakia, Bulgaria, and the GDR.

Nabih Birri, minister of state for the south and reconstruction affairs, will visit Kuwait tomorrow. He will then go to Algiers for talks on the Lebanese crisis.

Junblatt Leaves for Damascus, Moscow on Visits

NC211721 Beirut Domestic Service in Arabic 1630 GMT 21 Oct 84

[Text] Minister Walid Junblatt left Beirut for Damascus at noon today en route to Moscow on an official visit during which he will hold talks with Soviet leaders on the situation in Lebanon and in the area.

Consequently, Junblatt will not attend tomorrow's Cabinet session, while Minister Nabih Birri will attend.

Reportedly Departs for Prague

NC220625 Beirut Domestic Service in Arabic 0400 GMT 22 Oct 84

[Text] AFP reported last night that Minister Walid Junblatt left Lebanon for Prague via Damascus on a visit to Czechoslovakia for talks with Czechoslovak leaders. Earlier reports had said that Minister Junblatt will visit Moscow. AFP attributed the report about Minister Junblatt's visit to Czechoslovakia to sources in the Progressive Socialist Party.

Junblatt Vows To 'Increase Our Armament'

NC211654 (Clandestine) Voice of the Mountain in Arabic to Lebanon 1230 GMT 21 Oct 84

[Speech delivered by Walid Junblatt, leader of the Progressive Socialist Party, on 21 October during a ceremony marking the 60th anniversary of the founding of the Lebanese Communist Party; place not given — recorded]

[Text] We are gathered here today on the great occasion of the anniversary of the founding of the Lebanese Communist Party — this struggling, friendly, and allied party. This is a great, splendid, glorious, national, and pan-Arab occasion, particularly since Comrade 'Abdallah al-Ahmar, Syrian Ba'th Party assistant secretary general, has come to Beirut to affirm the national and pan-Arab solidarity and cohesion in the struggle in the historic phase through which we are living. He has also come to affirm the common destiny toward Arabism and toward real independence from colonialism with the support of the Arabs led by Ba'th Syria, revolutionary Syria, nationalist aspirations' Syria, Syria of the armed forces, and Syria of Al-Asad. [applause]

It is not surprising that sharing this celebration with us are comrades from the Soviet Communist Party — this pioneer and vanguard party, this giant party, this party which has always stood by the just cause of the Arab people and has defended and offered many sacrifices for it. This party has stood by all the just causes in the world. We are always proud of this party's power and achievements.

We declare openly that we in the Progressive Socialist Party, the Lebanese Communist Party, and the National Democratic Front stand in the same trench with our Soviet comrades in confronting imperialism and its agents. [applause]

I declare that the experience of the recent Israeli-imperialist invasion has proved to us that the so-called Socialist International is an agent of the United States. [applause] I declare this because those who call themselves socialists have sent fleets and ships to strike at the Lebanese people and [words indistinct]

I welcome all the participating delegations. I particularly mention the PDRY, as well as Algeria, which was and will remain Arab.

I also mention that this occasion has occurred at a time when the Lebanese national forces have gathered under the slogan of the National Democratic Front. In the recent past the Libyan Jamahariyah was a precursor in deeply exploring this unique

experiment, the experiment of mobilizing the masses through committees. Undoubtedly, we must deeply study this experiment. [words indistinct]

Our position is clear. Without procrastination, we want what was agreed upon in the government policy statement and in Lausanne. I refuse to participate in a new Al-Wazzan-like government. [applause] We will not lay down weapons. Be assured, all of you, that we will not lay down weapons. We will increase our armament [applause] until we are assured that partnership is achieved in all spheres, especially in the Army. We want a national army committed to the national cause. We do not want a sectarian army that destroys the suburb and the mountain and which kidnaps and kills. This is the inclination of those who are now participating in the government, which has wrongly been called the national unity government. [applause]

We will not lay down our weapons before eliminating the Israeli aggression and occupation in the south, western Al-Biqa', and Rashayya and before calling to account the officials who are responsible for the abductions, killings, and destruction of the suburb, the mountain, and Beirut and for other crimes committed against the Lebanese people.

Some might say that this is talk designed to obstruct a solution. Not at all. It is balanced talk designed to serve a solution. I frankly warn the ruling clique [words indistinct]. I warn them against continuing to steal the people's money by playing with the dollar, because if the people get hungry, their grudge will become very great. [words indistinct] May God's peace be with you.

Soviets, Syrians Attend 60th CP Anniversary

NC211525 (Clandestine) Voice of the Mountain in Arabic to Lebanon 1230 GMT 21 Oct 84

[Excerpt] An oratory celebration was held at 1000 today to mark the 60th anniversary of the foundation of the Lebanese Communist party. The celebration was attended by Walid Junblatt, Progressive Socialist Party leader; 'Abdallah al-Ahmar, Syrian Ba'th Party assistant secretary general; George Hawi, secretary general of the Lebanese Communist Party; Dr 'Umar Musaykah, representing the government; Karen Brutents, heading a Soviet Communist Party delegation; 'Isam al-Mahayri, leader of the Syrian Social Nationalist Party; Munir Abu Fadil, deputy speaker of the Chamber of Deputies; and Marwan Hamadah, Zahir al-Khatib, Samir Sabbagh, Anwar al-Fatayri, In'am Ra'd, Marwan Faris, Mahmud 'Abd al-Khaliq, Karim Muruwwah, Munir al-Sayyad, and 'Abdallah al-Rashid. The master of ceremonies was Khalil Na'us, who introduced 'Umar Musaykah.

Speaking for the government, Musaykah thanked the Arab and friendly states that assisted Lebanon in its ordeal. He particularly thanked Arab Syria and said: Our march for liberation is continuing and so is our march for reform and reconstruction, thanks to the good will and faith of us all.

Speaking on this occasion, 'Abdallah al-Ahmar, Syrian Ba'th party assistant secretary general, affirmed that Syria will remain the ally of the Lebanese people and the nationalist forces in particular. He praised the Lebanese national resistance and expressed hope for an Israeli withdrawal soon under the resistance fighters' strikes.

He said: The 60th anniversary comes following victories achieved by your people, who are defending Arabism, and who are represented in the National Democratic Front which is allied with the Amal movement for a steadfast Lebanon against imperialist plans.

He added that the Lebanese people are daily giving examples and are establishing their existence as a strong people among the Arab nation. Syria derives its strength from the Arab masses and from its ally, the Soviet Union.

He stressed that the formula of dominating the area was buried together with the 17 May accord.

Al-Ahmar greeted the fighters who confronted the U.S. fleets in Beirut, the mountain, and in the suburbs. He said: We cannot but be by your side and with you. We will defend freedom and independence.

Karen Brutents, representing the Soviet CP, conveyed greetings to the Lebanese communists who recorded glorious achievements when they surged forward shoulder to shoulder to repel the Israeli aggressors' attack together with their comrades in the struggle — specially members of the Progressive Socialist Party, other parties, and other Lebanese nationalist parties and movements, the Palestinian resistance movement, and their Syrian brothers.

He added: Lebanon and other Middle Eastern countries are still subject to imperialist expansion.

The United States supports by all means — as was the case before the aggression — its strategic ally Israel, and it adopts an overt hostile stand against the Arabs, hinders a settlement in the Middle East conflict, and exacerbates its military presence in the area.

The Lebanese nationalists have taught the Israeli aggressors and the interfering U.S. contingent of the multinational force an unforgettable lesson, thanks to the Lebanese courage and Syria's steadfastness, and thanks to the support of the world peaceloving forces.

The hopes of U.S. imperialism to convert Lebanon into a U.S.-Israeli protectorate and a U.S. war base in this area were dashed.

From this platform we would like to declare once again our solidarity with the social and political forces in Lebanon which oppose the interference in the country's affairs and the plans for partition.

We demand the immediate end of the Israeli occupation of southern Lebanon and a settlement of Lebanese domestic questions on the basis of a national accord.

We can assure you that the Lebanese people will always meet the understanding and support of the Soviet citizens in their struggle for their country's independence and sovereignty.

Soviet Stand on Security, UNIFIL in South Sought

NC201728 (Clandestine) Radio Free Lebanon in Arabic 1645 GMT 20 Oct 84

[Text] Diplomatic sources disclosed that today the acting secretary general of the Foreign Ministry asked Soviet Charge d'Affaires (Yuriy Suslikov) to explain the Soviet stance on security arrangements in the south in the event of the Israeli forces' withdrawal, as well as their stand on increasing UNIFIL's personnel and expanding its role.

The sources have said that an agreement has been reached between Lebanon and Israel on some points related to convening military meetings between the two countries under the aegis of the United Nations, but that there are other points on which (?an agreement) must be reached.

Mufti Khalid Returns From Visits to USSR, Poland

NC191546 Beirut Domestic Service in Arabic 1500 GMT 19 Oct 84

[Text] His Eminence Shaykh Hasan Khalid, the mufti of the Lebanese Republic, returned to Beirut this afternoon from Rome, accompanied by Dr Husayn al-Quwwatli, the director general of the mufti's office, following visits to the Soviet Union, Poland, and Italy.

During his tour, his eminence checked on the Muslims there, attended several meetings, and delivered a series of lectures on Islam and the need to establish a link among Muslim communities abroad.

Islamic Jihad Threatens Currency Speculators

JN211225 Paris Radio Monte Carlo in Arabic 1205 GMT 21 Oct 84

[Text] The social department of the Islamic Jihad organization has threatened to liquidate speculators who are responsible for the increase in the price of the U.S. dollar.

In a telephone call to one of the foreign news agencies in Beirut, the organization threatened to liquidate several of the speculators, which it listed by name, if they do not refrain from speculation operations within 48 hours. The Islamic Jihad organization accused them of tampering with the nation's fate.

Cease-Fire Agreements Ignored in Mountain

NC191639 (Clandestine) Voice of the Mountain in Arabic to Lebanon 1600 GMT 19 Oct 84

[Text] A short time ago the security situation in the mountain erupted and Kayfun, Baysur, and 'Aytat received intensive artillery and RPG-7 fire. Sniper fire began at 1600 and contacts to halt it were unsuccessful. The artillery fire originated from Suq al-Gharb and Tallat al-Husn. A cease-fire agreement was reached at 1725, but the Army did not abide by it and continued to shell the aforementioned towns, backed by tanks and mortar fire from (Al-Wadayah). The situation continued to deteriorate.

A second cease-fire agreement was reached to come into effect at 1740, but the Army did not abide by it, and Army artillery positioned in Bayt Miri joined in the shelling.

A third cease-fire agreement was reached to come into effect at 1800; that is, about 1 minute ago.

3 Gunboats Open Fire on Beirut Coast

NC192023 (Clandestine) Voice of the Mountain in Arabic to Lebanon 2000 GMT 19 Oct 84

[Text] The three gunboats that had opened gunfire on the areas of Ar-Rawshah, Jall al-Bahr, and 'Ayn al-Muraysa, reappeared a short time ago off Khaldah and began firing projectiles. The 6th Brigade forces engaged them and forced them to withdraw to sea.

3 Booby-trapped Cars Reportedly Roaming Beirut

NC192131 Cairo Domestic Service in Arabic 2100 GMT 19 Oct 84

[Text] AFP has reported that the Lebanese Army and police this evening took extensive security measures in Beirut following threats directed against French interests whose nature has not been made clear.

A Western official source [as heard] in the Lebanese capital has stated that the Lebanese Army was notified this evening that three booby-trapped cars are roaming Beirut to carry out acts of aggression there.

In another development, officials at the U.S. Embassy in Beirut today revealed that the evacuation of some persons related to U.S. Embassy diplomats has begun.

The officials said that five such persons have been actually evacuated, but the officials did not specify where they had been evacuated to.

A spokesman for the embassy described this measure as temporary, pending the strengthening of security measures following the recent suicide attack on the U.S. Embassy.

PSP Radio Reports 'Alayh Receiving Mortar Fire

NC212024 (Clandestine) Voice of the Mountain in Arabic to Lebanon 2000 GMT 21 Oct 84

[Text] The situation calmed down in the city of 'Alayh 15 minutes ago and the shelling of residential quarters stopped following the intervention of Progressive Socialist Party artillery.

At 2115 today, the city of 'Alayh received 81-mm and 120-mm mortar fire originating from Suq al-Gharb, 'Arayya, and Prince Hill.

Earlier, the western quarter of 'Alayh and Ra's al-Jabal received machine gun and mortar fire from Army positions and Phalangist forces in Prince Hill and 'Ayn as-Sayyidah.

Clashes Between 6th Brigade, Palestinian Gunmen

NC220955 (Clandestine) Radio Free Lebanon in Arabic 0945 GMT 22 Oct 84

[Text] Clashes have been going since 1100 today in Burj al-Barajinah Camp between soldiers from the 6th Brigade and Palestinian gunmen. The explosion of rockets can be heard in the area.

Most of the roads leading to the camp have been cut off and Amal movement members have been put on alert.

Army Surrounds Palestinian Camp

NC221030 Beirut Domestic Service in Arabic 1000 GMT 22 Oct 84

[Text] Security sources have stated that Lebanese Army forces this morning surrounded a Palestinian camp in the southern suburb of the capital following the outbreak of armed clashes between rival groups inside the camp. The sources said that the Army took this step, which was confined to surrounding but not entering the Burj al-Barajinah camp, following the clashes which started shortly after midnight last night and continued until this morning inside the camp between rival Palestinian groups. Sporadic gunfire continued to be heard inside the camp even after the clashes had stopped.

The sources said that the clashes, in which light weapons were used, took place between groups that support PLO Executive Committee Chairman Yasir 'Arafat and others that support Colonel Abu Musa [Sa'id Musa Muragha], one of the leaders rebelling against the leadership of Yasir 'Arafat. There were no reports about casualties as a result of these clashes.

U.S. Marine Reportedly Killed by Accident

NC210552 (Clandestine) Voice of Arab Lebanon in Arabic 0530 GMT 21 Oct 84

[Text] A U.S. Marine was killed yesterday at a Lebanese Army training center in Kasrawan.

The marine, Sergeant (Michael Hirtsusan), was killed by accident while he was cleaning his gun, according to an Army statement.

Reportage on Resistance Operations in South

Israeli Positions Attacked

NC201308 (Clandestine) Voice of the Mountain in Arabic to Lebanon 1230 GMT 20 Oct 84

[Text] At 0400 today, national resistance fighters in southern Lebanon attacked an Israeli post near the township of Kafr Hunah. A number of Israelis were killed or wounded in the rocket and machine gun attack. Meanwhile, national resistance fighters ambushed an Israeli patrol near (Tallat al-Ma'shuq), in the area of Tyre, last night, attacking it with rockets. The number of Israeli casualties is unknown, as the Israelis sealed off the area. The Israeli forces also raided a number of homes in the area in search of the attackers.

Finally, AFP reported a short while ago that national resistance fighters detonated a bomb in a shop whose owner deals with the Israeli forces in the town of Ad-Duwayr, in the An-Nabatiyal district.

Israeli Convoy Ambushed

NC201924 Beirut Domestic Service in Arabic 1900 GMT 20 Oct 84

[Text] According to reports from the south, Lebanese national resistance fighters ambushed an Israeli military convoy as it was passing through the Al-Ghaziyah area at 1800 today. They directed rocket and automatic weapons fire at the convoy, destroying a truck and a jeep.

The enemy's losses in life could not be determined because of the security cordon which the Israeli occupation forces imposed around the scene of the operation.

Six Israelis Reportedly Killed

NC211734 Beirut Domestic Service in Arabic 1630 GMT 21 Oct 84

[Excerpt] At 1400 today, Lebanese national resistance fighters attacked an Israeli patrol with rocket and machine gun fire at the entrance to Al-Saksakiyah Township. A statement issued by the national resistance this afternoon said that six Israeli soldiers were killed and two enemy vehicles were put out of action during the attack.

Senegalese UNIFIL Contingent Leaves S. Lebanon

NC211738 Beirut Domestic Service in Arabic 1630 GMT 21 Oct 84

[Excerpt] Senegalese soldiers deployed with the UN Emergency Forces in southern Lebanon are leaving their positions, now that the Senegalese Government decided to withdraw its contingent from Lebanon. A group of 160 soldiers left the south at noon today returning home via Israel.

Meanwhile, 610 French soldiers are making preparations to join the UN peacekeeping force in southern Lebanon next month. The force includes 418 volunteers and 192 professional soldiers.

Officials Analyze Al-Asad Visit to USSR

JN192040 Paris Radio Monte Carlo in Arabic 1730 GMT 19 Oct 84

[Louis Faris dispatch from Damascus carried within the weekly program "It Happened Tomorrow"]

[Text] Whoever carefully read the Syrian-Soviet joint statement will notice how identical are the two countries' viewpoints on the hot issues in the region and the world — the unconditional Israeli withdrawal from Lebanon, backing the national unity government and its efforts to achieve accord and the expulsion of the Israeli occupation from Lebanon, intensifying the firm denunciation of the Camp David accords and the policy of separate deals and all current attempts to reactivate and resurrect them, and preserving the unity of the PLO on a nationalist, progressive, and anti-imperialist basis which is what Syria has always advocated.

In their talk, some of the officials who accompanied President al-Asad to Moscow affirmed that the visit has fully achieved its objectives at a time when efforts are underway to resurrect separate deals. They affirm that Syria will not budge one inch from its firm and well-known stands. In fact, Syria is determined now more than at any time before to confront the new onslaught whose signs have appeared through the recent developments. They add that consultation with the Soviet leadership was inevitable because Syrian-Soviet relations have risen to the level of strategic relations.

When you ask officials here about what has been reiterated by certain news media concerning the existence of difficulties or disagreements on viewpoints between the Syrian and Soviet leaderships during the visit, they categorically deny it. They say there were decisions on more Soviet military support for Syria, decisions for increasing economic cooperation to push forward the wheel of development in Syria, and an agreement that the solution to the crisis within the PLO is an urgent issue but must be taken on a nationalist, progressive, and anti-imperialist basis. The officials here see such talk as crystal clear and needing no comment.

The same goes for the situation in the Middle East. There was complete agreement on what the joint statement described as a firm condemnation of all current attempts to reactivate the Camp David accords. The meaning of the words current attempts is very clear even if they are used diplomatically.

It has been said that when the USSR referred to its support for Syria, as well as for the rest of the Arab countries, it had shifted its concentration from Syria to concentrate on other countries in the region. But this is not something new. Whoever reviews previous joint statements and cables exchanged between Damascus and Moscow on various occasions will notice that this has been the language that has always been used. Therefore, why the concentration on this point now?

It has also been said that Syria was disturbed because the USSR is receiving the Iraqi foreign minister and King Husayn of Jordan. In response to this, officials here surprisingly wonder: Since when has Syria intended to monopolize Soviet support and influence, and since when has Syria been disturbed when the USSR supplies weapons and other things to this or that Arab country?

They insistently point out that Syrian-Soviet relations were established, continued, and were developed on the basis of mutual respect and common benefit and the principle of noninterference in each other's domestic affairs. Consequently, it is not possible for Syrian and Soviet sides to blame one another for their international relations. What is possible is coordination and continuing cooperation with regard to the common goals that have been strategically agreed on. Among these targets, as is well known, is not permitting the United States to solve the region's problem unilaterally the way it likes.

Moreover, the development of Syrian-Soviet relations does not stand in the way of developing relations between Moscow and other Arab parties that have become fed up with the blind U.S. bias toward Israel. These developing relations do not conflict with Syrian strategy. On the contrary, these relations aid and complement this strategy. Syria is not against the improvement of relations between Moscow and any other Arab country.

One of the officials here has gone to the point of describing the visit as absolutely one of President al-Asad's most successful visits to the USSR. He told our radio that this visit will have tangible results in strengthening Syria's military and economic capabilities. This is what was told to me today by the spokesman of Syrian President Hafiz al-Asad. He is Jubran Kuriyah, chief of the press office at the presidential palace in Damascus. Kuriyah accompanied the Syrian president to Moscow and returned with him yesterday. I asked him: How does Syria evaluate the results of the visit and what is its opinion on reports and analyses that spoke about disagreements or difficulties between the Syrian and Soviet leaderships?

[Begin Jubran Kuriyah recording] The working visit President Hafiz al-Asad paid to the USSR during the period 15-18 October was a successful one in all respects and achieved its purpose. It has contributed to the further development and deepening of relations of friendship, cordiality, and cooperation between Syria and the USSR in all fields.

The results of this visit will have a tangible effect in subsequent development of Syrian-Soviet relations and in strengthening Syria's defense and economic capability so it can effectively and successfuly confront U.S. plans to dominate the region, enforce hegemony, and back Israeli aggression and expansion.

During the talks the president held with Soviet President Konstantin Chernenko and other members of the Soviet leadership, the viewpoints were in full agreement on all topics discussed. There were no disagreements on viewpoints on any of the topics on the agenda of the talks. It can be said that President Hafiz al-Asad's visit to Moscow was one of his most successful to the USSR so far. This fact will not be changed by what is rumored by certain sources about alleged disagreements that emerged during the talks or difficulties that countered the president in Moscow. Such reports call for ridicule and express the anxiety of quarters hostile to Syria and Arabs over the results of this visit. [end recording]

Coverage of Visit by Arab League's Chedli Klibi

Klibi Arrives in Damascus

JN192102 Damascus Domestic Service in Arabic 2015 GMT 19 Oct 84

[Text] Arab League Secretary General Chedli Klibi arrived in Damascus this evening on a visit to Syria. During his visit, he will meet with a number of high-ranking state officials and will participate in the work of the sixth Arab industrial development conference to begin on Tuesday on the Arab industry ministers level.

Klibi was received at Damascus Airport by Foreign Minister Faruq al-Shar', Industry Minister Mahmud Qadduri, and Director of the Arab Homeland Department at the Ministry of Foreign Affairs Hunayn Hatim.

In a statement to the SANA correspondent, Klibi said: I have made it a point to visit Syria during these sensitive circumstances due to Syria's position concerning Arab struggle and the central cause and also due to President Hafiz al-Asad's prominent role. Also, the topics for discussion require more consultation and coordination among our countries. Thus, I am looking forward to meeting with President Hafiz al-Asad to discuss all these matters with him.

Khaddam Confers With Klibi

JN201157 Damascus Domestic Service in Arabic 1115 GMT 20 Oct 84

[Text] Vice President 'Abd al-Halim Khaddam received Arab League Secretary General Chedli Klibi at 1200 today. The talks revolved around the current situation in the Arab arena. Klibi arrived in Damascus yesterday evening to attend meetings of the sixth Arab industrial development conference which will begin in Damascus on Tuesday. Arab industry ministers will attend.

Al-Shar' Confers With Klibi

JN211144 Damascus Domestic Service in Arabic 1115 GMT 21 Oct 84

[Text] Foreign Minister Faruq al-Shar' received Arab League Secretary General Chedli Klibi today. The talks dealt with the current Arab situation in general and ways of confronting current attempts aimed at liquidating the Arab-Israeli conflict in the enemy's favor.

Libyan General Congress Delegation Arrives

JN201919 Damascus Domestic Service in Arabic 1815 GMT 20 Oct 84

[Text] Damascus — A Libyan General People's Congress delegation led by 'Ali Bilkhayr, deputy general secretary of the General People's Congress, arrived in Damascus this afternoon on a visit to Syria at the invitation of the Arab Socialist Ba'th Party National Command. This visit comes within the framework of the fraternal relations and the exchange of opinions between the Arab Socialist Ba'th Party and the General People's Congress on ways to promote relations in the interest of the two fraternal organizations and countries.

In a statement to a SANA correspondent, Bilkhayr said: We view Syria as a fortress of steadfastness in its confrontation of the U.S. imperialist-Zionist-reactionary designs. We stand strongly and resolutely at Syria's side in its confrontation of these designs.

Mashariqah Receives Libyan Delegation

JN211835 Damascus Television Service in Arabic 1730 GMT 21 Oct 84

[Text] This evening, Vice President Muhammad Zuhayr Mashariqah received the Libyan General People's Congress delegation led by 'Ali Bilkhayr, deputy general secretary of the People's Congress. They discussed bilateral relations and exchanged viewpoints on current developments in the Arab arena.

Al-Ahmar Meets Egyptian Communist Party Members

JN201419 Damascus SANA in Arabic 1315 GMT 20 Oct 84

[Text] Damascus, 20 Oct (SANA) — This morning, Comrade 'Abdallah al-Ahmar, assistant Arab Ba'th Party secretary general, received Comrade Michel Kamil, Political Bureau member and chief of foreign relations in the Egyptian Communist Party. They exchanged viewpoints on recent developments in the Arab arena as well as on the U.S. imperialist actions, moves, and role in which the Jordanian regime, the Egyptian regime, the Iraqi regime, and the deviant Yasir 'Arafat participate to establish a new reactionary axis aimed at liquidating the Palestine question. Jordan's move to restore relations with the Egyptian regime is a step toward capitulation and defeatism. It is also aimed at breaking the siege around the Egyptian regime and the Camp David policy.

The two sides also stressed the responsibility of the Arab national liberation forces for confronting and foiling these plans and for strengthening the Arab struggle to achieve the Arab nation's goals.

Al-Ahmar also received Brother (Mohamed al-Basri), a leader of the Moroccan national movement. The talks dealt with the Arab liberation movement's role in confronting the capitulatory plans and the imperialist onslaught against the Arab region.

Egyptian Communist Criticizes Mubarak

JN220741 Damascus Domestic Service in Arabic 0315 GMT 22 Oct 84

[Text] Michel Kamil, member of the Egyptian Communist Party Political Bureau, has stated that the Egyptian regime is conforming to the Sadatist policy and that Husni Mubarak not only inherited Al-Sadat's line but also participated in formulating Al-Sadat's capitulationist policy.

In an interview with Syrian television last night, Kamil said that the Egyptian regime's political and economic line has not changed and has continued to be on the basis of Camp David and subservience to the United States. Kamil pointed out that Husni Mubarak did not reject Al-Sadat's visit to Jerusalem and was very happy about it at the time. Kamil noted that only superficial, procedural changes have been introduced in Egypt which have enhanced, rather than checked Al-Sadat's policy. Kamil added that imperialism found in Al-Sadat an undeterred agent who destroyed everything that 'Abd al-Nasir built.

Kamil also said that the popular resistance in Egypt against the regime has begun a new phase of (?mobilization) to crystallize national forces to confront the regime's policy.

He also asserted that the U.S. plot encompasses the entire region and that restoration of Jordanian-Egyptian diplomatic relations is the second link in the Camp David plot, pointing out that Arab reactionism is trying to give the impression that the Mubarak regime has abandoned Camp David. The aim is to take new steps to complete this plot, he added.

Al-Shar' Receives Cuban Ambassador, Message

JN211149 Damascus Domestic Service in Arabic 1115 GMT 21 Oct 84

[Text] Foreign Minister Faruq al-Shar' received the Cuban ambassador in Damascus today. He delivered a written message from the Cuban foreign minister.

Information Minister Returns From Tunis

JN191856 Damascus Domestic Service in Arabic 1815 GMT 19 Oct 84

[Text] Damascus — Information Minister Yasin Rajjuh returned to Damascus this evening after heading the Syrian delegation to the meetings of the Arab information ministers council that concluded in Tunis 2 days ago. The Council adopted a number of decisions and recommendations aimed at intensifying Arab information activity in the international arena, particularly in North and South America to explain Arab rights and expand the circle of friends who support our people's just struggle.

Peres Discusses Lebanon at Cabinet Session

TA211034 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 1000 GMT 21 Oct 84

[Text] At the Cabinet session, the prime minister explained that the steps taken so far on the Lebanese issue were in accordance with the decision by the Ministerial Committee on Security Affairs. The Cabinet will decide on further moves at its next session.

Shim'on Peres stressed that Israel objects to holding the talks with Lebanon on security arrangements [3-second break in transmission] and that UN officers will chair the meetings. Israel supports contacts at the military level, however. Our political correspondent Shim'on Schiffer says that the prime minister's explanations were made following Minister Mordekhay Gur's sharp criticism of Sharon's remarks yesterday on the Voice of Israel. Mordekhay Gur says it is unthinkable for Ari'el Sharon to put forward stands that contradict decisions made by the Ministerial Committee on Security Affairs.

Ready To Talk With Syria

TA211130 Tel Aviv IDF Radio in Hebrew 1100 GMT 21 Oct 84

[Text] Speaking at the Cabinet session today, Prime Minister Shim'on Peres said that all decisions on Lebanon will be made by the Ministerial Committee on Security Affairs. A comprehensive debate on Lebanon will be held at the end of this week by the Inner Cabinet.

Our correspondent Ilana Dayan reports on the Cabinet's weekly session today:

Prime Minister Shim'on Peres wanted today's session to be limited to giving reports on current affairs and allowing ministers to ask questions, but avoid getting into unnecessary arguments and debates. Defense Minister Yitzhaq Rabin reviewed the latest events in Lebanon as well as other routine security matters. The entire briefing was held as a sessionof the Minsterial Committee on Security Affairs which is why we are not allowed to report any details on it.

At the end of the briefing, Minister Ari'el Sharon wanted to raise a point of order, but the prime minister stopped him in the middle and asked all the ministers to refrain from making public statements on the Cabinet's sessions and the meetings of its committees. Health Minister Modekhay Gur took advantage of the opportunity to criticize Minister Sharon's remarks at the end of last week. It is inconceivable, he said, for ministers to make public statements criticizing decisions made by the Ministerial Committee on Security Affairs. Other ministers seconded his criticism. The prime minister added that a comprehensive debate on Lebanon will be held this week by the Inner Cabinet.

At the end of the session, Cabinet Secretary Dr Yosi Beilin gave the following details on this matter:

[Begin recording] Defining the position of the Israeli Government, the prime minister said there is a readiness to maintain contacts with Syria through the United States with the aim of: preventing a Syrian expansion westward and southward after the IDF withdrawal; preventing terrorist infiltration from Syrian-held areas; and ensuring that UNIFIL redeploys in the Al-Biqa' area as well.

As for the military negotiations between Israel and Lebanon, Israel objects to conducting these negotiations within the framework of the Armistice Commission or to having UNIFIL preside over the negotiations, although it favors contacts on the military level. [end recording]

Later on, Dr Beilin announced that the Cabinet hasauthorized its six representatives on the economic council to conduct negotiations on an economic package deal. Let us only point out that following a brief debate, the Cabinet decided to alter the original formula, and make it clear — as according to the proposal put forward by Energy Minister Moshe Shahal — that the ministers will not conclude anything with the various sectors in the economy before they present things to the Cabinet for approval.

The Cabinet also approved three overseas trips by ministers: Mordekhay Gur and Gid'on Pat wil depart for the United States; Yiga'l Hurvitz will soon leave for Germany.

To Discuss Lebanon 28 Oct

TA211339 Tel Aviv IDF Radio in Hebrew 1320 GMT 21 Oct 84

[Text] The Cabinet will hold a comprehensive discussion next Sunday [28 October] on the Lebanese issue and will decide on Israel's stance regarding the withdrawal from Lebanon. By then the Defense Ministry will have worked out various proposals which Yitzhaq Rabin will present to the ministers.

In today's Cabinet meeting an argument developed over the role which UNIFIL will assume in the framework of a withdrawal agreement. Minister Sharon made it clear that the UNIFIL matter was not concluded in the Cabinet and he therefore felt himself free to address it at the end of the week. Our correspondent Ilana Dayan reports that the prime minister asked the ministers to refrain from making remarks on the economic issue as well, as long as the present economic move has not been concluded yet.

Sharon Criticizes Government Policy in Interview

TA200939 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 0805 GMT 20 Oct 84

[Interview with Industry and Trade Minister Ari'el Sharon by Me'ir Einstein; date and place not given — recorded]

[Text] [Einstein] Mr Minister of Industry and Trade, Sir, your colleagues in the Cabinet over the last few days have sharply criticized the finance minister, or actually the Cabinet, for not having an economic plan, saying that the economic measures taken so far have in fact been shots from the hip, as they phrased it. I must point out that you did not join the chorus of criticism. May one infer from this that you are pleased with the state of affairs so far and the pace at which decisions are made?

[Sharon] I do not think problems are solved by criticism. The place to discuss things is within the Cabinet. Those who have something to say should do so in the Cabinet. The Cabinet passes resolutions on the basis of majority rule, as is the case with any democratic system and government. This has been the case so far and this is how it should be done in the future.

Those who think that once the Cabinet has passed a resolution it is their job to step outside and express their own position, plans, or ideas contrary to the plan concluded by the Cabinet either do not realize the seriousness of the situation or are only concerned with presenting their own plan. It is clear that considerations of what is good for the country do not bother them.

It is inconceivable that more than one voice should be heard in a time of crisis, and the only voice that must be heard outside the Cabinet room is that of the Cabinet.

[Einstein] More to the point, do you not think that the Cabinet is dragging its feet in finding a formula for an economic plan and for getting out of the serious crisis afflicting us?

[Sharon] I think the Cabinet will have to elect members for a very small economic forum. For the last 5 weeks, we have been meeting in the framework of a smaller Cabinet to discuss political and security issues. The meetings in that forum are on a high level and the participants are serious people. The fact is that the content of the deliberations has not been disclosed and I would not be wrong in saying that the very fact that such debates are taking place is not known to the public.

There is no choice but to create a smaller forum, a small or even very small, economic Cabinet. Perhaps the team set up to conduct negotiations with the Histadrut and the employers and to find solutions for the economic problems is the appropriate forum to deal with this issue. This forum must operate under the leadership of the prime minister who must firmly tackle these issues. This is no time to deliberate. There is no other choice at the moment; this is a critical time calling for decisions that will definitely be implemented. Such a forum should now work every day. I would say that for all intents and purposes such a forum should operate like a military headquarters; it must decide on a policy and follow up its implementation.

I must say that to Finance Minister Yitzhaq Moda'i's credit, from the outset he has opposed such a wide forum and he fought for his case. In my opinion, the situation calls for a smaller forum with the direct intervention of the prime minister. This does not replace the Ministerial Committee on Economic Affairs which must also hold debates. Positions voiced in such sessions may very well be the basis for the decisions of the smaller economic cabinet. I have proposed the easiest way to operate it because it actually exists.

[Einstein] You have reiterated the need for the prime minister's direct intervention. Do you think that the prime minister has so far not exercised his full authority regarding the economic issue?

[Sharon] No, I did not say that. I said that a concentrated effort must now be made. Another point must be taken into consideration and that is that we, the Likud, did not establish a government of national unity with the Alignment because suddenly we find its political path acceptable. The Alignment's political path is unacceptable to us and this applies to all the approaches raised recently. What is unacceptable to us — I am expressing my own opinion here but I do not think I am the only one who subscribes to it — is the arrangement in Lebanon under UNIFIL's auspices. What UNIFIL are you talking about? The same UNIFIL that, overtly and covertly, cooperated with the terrorist organizations? Has that same UNIFIL suddenly become the umbrella for joint talks between us and the Lebanese? What is expected of such talks?

The Likud will not accept any solution of the Tabah question that removes any area from the territory of Eretz Yisra'el and hands it over to somebody, be it an international authority or an Egyptian authority — this is unacceptable to us. The Reagan plan, anything similar to it or anything resembling it, is unacceptable to us under any circumstances whatsoever. We are astounded and astonished at the plan to encourage Arab development in Judaea, Samaria, and the Gaza District while strings are attached to Jewish development in those areas. The current proposals to open an Arab bank are inconceivable. The establishment of an Arab bank is a political action of the first order. I am not against an Arab bank, one that would be linked to the Israeli monetary system.

I am not against development, but I am in favor of development for everybody. There cannot be a situation where, on one hand, development in the Jewish sector calls for approval by a Cabinet majority — and we know the composition of the Cabinet, it is based on equality between the two parties — and on the other, in our capacity as a Cabinet we should simultaneously support, as it were, an accelerated plan for an economic solution, which would in turn be conducive to a political solution that represents a serious threat to Israel's existence. Moreover, one should bear in mind that everything that comes under the label of maintaining the standards of living in Judaea, Samaria, and the Gaza Strip is a term we have known very well for many years. This is a subtle U.S. term that conceals other intentions and that is actually designed to prepare the ground leading to the establishment of a Palestinian state in Judaea, Samaria, and the Gaza Strip — and this is something we will never accept.

In other words, I am stressing these points for one purpose, to explain that we did not set up a national unity government to be a fig leaf for the Alignment's plans in the political and security sphere which we regard as catastrophic. We agreed and tried to establish a national unity government in order to tackle the economic problems. In our opinion, we must first and foremost concentrate on Israel's economic problems at present. That is why I know and I am convinced that the prime minister will do just that. I confer with the prime minister frequently, only yesterday I held a meeting with him.

[Einstein] What is the nature of your working relations?

[Sharon] These are correct and close working relations; we keep in regular contact on all spheres. At the same time, it is clear both to Mr Peres and myself that we differ totally over political issues. In the economic field, we see eye-to-eye and there is close cooperation, which I believe could also bring about a solution of

the problems. Of course, we cannot do that on our own; the finance minister and other members of the Cabinet also participate in these contacts. Regarding the economy in general, I think there is no choice but to take two simultaneous steps. First we must curb inflation; this is vital. At the same time, however, it would be a mistake if we did not take action to increase simultaneously Israeli productivity and exports.

I have presented my plan to double industrial exports within 3 to 4 years to the prime minister and to Vice Prime Minister Yitzhaq Shamir. In my opinion, this must be done simultaneously with curbing inflation. I know that this is very difficult and even entails a conflict of interests between two objectives. However, there is no other choice. I think that the Israeli public, which has enjoyed 7 good years, will be prepared to bear the burden, provided some light at the end of the tunnel can be seen; the Israeli public will withstand the greatest difficulties on the condition that they see some new industries being built. These industries would absorb soldiers and officers who are discharged from the Army and return to their former residences in development towns — this is a phenomenon which has increased in the last few years. Many officers and commanders constituting the bulk of the IDF's fighting units are returning to their hometowns. They would absorb students whose numbers have doubled, trebled, or even more than that, and who must go back to their hometowns. If they see that industrial plants — more advanced and sophisticated industries — are set up in their towns I think the Israeli public will be able to withstand the difficulties in this interim period. Therefore, simultaneous actions must be taken.

I think it is very important now that all the financial grants, loans, deferment of payments, or loans which we may receive from the Jewish diaspora — in sum, all the results of the prime minister's latest visit to the United States — should be dedicated to one objective: to set up a fund to develop industry, to give new momentum to economic growth, and to double exports; everything must be dedicated to this.

All the same, it is easier to spend all these enormous resources by continuing massive subsidization and by continuing the easy life in Israel. This is why I think that every agorat, shekel, and dollar of these funds should be invested in a fund from which money can only be drawn in order to double Israeli exports within 3 to 4 years. This is an attainable target. I suggested this to the prime minister and I also discussed this with the finance minister with whom I cooperate fully. In my opinion, the Cabinet should back the finance minister in his efforts. I spoke to them about creating other resources to invest in industry, by selling government-owned companies. As for myself, I believe in a free economy and the only thing we have not tried so far is free enterprise.

Given the stormy waters we are sailing, I would not suggest we should do this at once, because it is impossible. However, reducing the government's intervention in the economy should be regarded as a short-term objective. The government should decide on a policy and distribute the resources accordingly, but it should reduce its interference in the economy to the minimum. I think that, in this context, government-owned companies should be sold on one condition: Every cent from the proceeds of this sale should be invested in a fund for developing industry, increasing productivity, and doubling exports. The sale should only be carried out on this condition. If anybody suggests that we go on living our lives as we have to date, I will not lend my hand to it.

I would say that, just as I am in favor of reducing the government's intervention, I also do not think that we can live with foreign currency control forever. I think that there should be a liberalization and that in the future the linkage system must also be stopped. A drastic cut in taxation will have to be effected; I am not giving any specific figures because this has to be examined.

I think the Israeli economy is divided into two huge monetary systems: that of ordinary and so-called white capital and that of black capital. People owning black capital are afraid to save money and that is why they are on a constant buying spree. This leads to a cycle of spiralling inflation. If we were to reduce income tax, let us say to 25 percent, I think the situation would change and we would eradicate the black-capital market; this would have far-reaching implications for the Israeli economy. Instead of an income tax, purchase or other taxes could be imposed. I think there is no choice but to implement a dollarization plan —the name is not important, it may be called by some other name — in order to stabilize our currency. Basically, I am in favor of a free economy and I think this is actually the only thing we have never tried. This is not possible at present, but it should be a target.

[Einstein] A free economy is incompatible with price controls.

[Sharon] I regard price controls as the lesser of two evils. I think the controls should be implemented by each economic sector. Both the manufacturers and the retail networks must control themselves, and the consumer associations must encourage the public not to pay more than the stipulated price. I will under no circumstances whatsoever hesitate to exercise my authority. I have already issued unambiguous instructions about plants and manufacturers. I would not suggest that we put the manufacturers to the stake because most of them are excellent industrialists; some of them err by deviating from the set price and not amending it retroactively. I issued instructions 2 days ago to my ministry staff that I would not automatically approve the updating of prices as called for by the increase in the Consumer Price Index — as the price control committees do at present — but that I would examine each of them personally. The manufacturer who deviates from the set price along with members of the committee will have to explain to me why the price was not amended. I would not like to take such measures but there is no other choice. I think these are temporary measures and they basically depend on the good will of the pertinent bodies.

[Einstein] Sir, to conclude the economic chapter, how long do you think it will take before a final comprehensive economic plan is submitted by the government?

[Sharon] I think the government has had and still has a plan. The government had difficulties in implementing it. The government may have been weak on this point, but this weakness cannot go on for long. Therefore, I think this will be a short-lived phenomenon.

[Einstein] Perhaps we should go back to the statements you made during the Simchas Torah celebrations in Hebron, or to be more precise, the wish you expressed to hold the celebrations in Nabulus next year. Earlier you mentioned the differences between the Alignment and the Likud, which actually do not provide a basis for cooperation in the national unity government on political issues. Did you perhaps want to emphasize the differences between the Alignment and the Likud by expressing this wish?

[Sharon] No, I have no reason to emphasize the differences. My opinion as well as the Likud's on this issue is well-known. We believe in Jewish settlement in all parts of Eretz Yisra'el. Just as Arabs live in all parts of Eretz Yisra'el, so will Jews live in all parts of Eretz Yisra'el without any qualifications whatsoever. I firmly believe that just as a Jewish settlement now exists in Hebron and in Al-Birah near Ramallah — Al-Birah and Ramallah are actually one city and a Jewish settlement exists there — just as Jews currently reside in the Old City in Jerusalem — and I hope their number will increase — and around Janin and Nabulus; just as a Jewish yeshiva exists at Joseph's Tomb in Nabulus, so I hope and believe that a large Jewish settlement will exist in Nabulus. All this, not in order to increase friction with the local population but in order to prevent friction.

I firmly believe in what I said and I hope that this will definitely be the case.

UNIFIL Views Emphasized

TA201746 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 1700 GMT 20 Oct 84

[Text] Minister Ari'el Sharon has attacked the Alignment's political and security plans, defining them as disastrous. In an interview carried by the Voice of Israel this morning Minister Sharon said that the arrangements proposed in southern Lebanon under UNIFIL's aegis are unacceptable to the Likud. Sharon also rejected the plan for improving the quality of life in the territories.

Defense Minister Yitzhaq Rabin refuses to react to Minister Sharon's attack. Our military correspondent Shmu'el Tal comments that the political-security conception which advocates political understanding with Syria and a military settlement with Lebanon, including the UNIFIL deployment, was discussed and approved by the Inner Cabinet. This concept was also discussed in the talks with U.S. Defense Secretary Weinberger and the Likud ministers did not take exception to it. The proposal to improve the quality of life in the West Bank was raised in Shim'on Peres' talks in Washington. Yitzhaq Shamir, who participated in those talks, had no reservations about it.

Peres, Shamir Sources React

TA201955 Jerusalem Television Service in Hebrew 1900 GMT 20 Oct 84

[Text] Remarks by Minister Sharon today in a radio interview triggered reactions from different directions. Mr Sharon strongly rejected any arrangement in Lebanon which might rely on UNIFIL forces in southern Lebanon. Sources in the prime minister's office this evening expressed the hope that Minister Sharon's remarks would not foil a political-military settlement which might make the pullback of the IDF soldiers from Lebanon possible. Within the prime minister's circle it is thought that if negotiations are not conducted under UNIFIL's aegis, there will be no choice but to either maintain the IDF forces in Lebanon for a long time to come or effect a unilateral withdrawal.

Our political correspondent Yoram Ronen reports this evening, on behalf of the vice prime minister's confidants, that Yitzhaq Shamir also believes that negotiations about the evacuation of IDF forces from southern Lebanon should not be conducted under UNIFIL's aegis. This was made clear to our correspondent together with the emphasis that the Cabinet has yet to make any decision on this matter.

The Defense Ministry this evening refused to react to Ari'el Sharon's remarks, but our military correspondent reports that the decisions which the defense establishment is following regarding the Lebanese question are anchored in the government's basic guidelines.

The Cabinet will discuss the Lebanese issue alone at the beginning of next week. This week the members of the Inner Cabinet will hold consultations aimed at consolidating an agreed upon position about the proposal which Defense Minister Yitzhaq Rabin will present to the Cabinet in a week's time.

Peres Will Not React

TA210749 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 0500 GMT 21 Oct 84

[Text] Shamir confidants say that Ari'el Sharon's criticism of the proposals by the prime minister and defense minister on Lebanon and the territories reflects the Likud stance. Our political correspondent Shim'on Shiffer has learned that Shamir has suggested to Peres that he abstain from dealing with all sorts — as he phrased it — of political affairs which are in dispute and instead focus on approving the economic plan.

The prime minister's office says that Shim'on Peres, in order to prevent polarization, does not intend to react to Ari'el Sharon's remarks. Our correspondent has learned that the prime minister was not surprised by Minister Sharon's remarks. The two held talks on 19 October.

Government, Opposition Blast Sharon

TA211232 Tel Aviv HA'ARETZ in Hebrew 21 Oct 84 pp 1, 2

[Report by political correspondent 'Aqiva Eldar, ITIM, and the parliamentary affairs correspondent]

[Excerpts] Industry and Trade Minister Ari'el Sharon's criticism of the prime minister and defense minister's Lebanon withdrawal policy was aimed at undermining the foundations of the national unity government and launching a process to dissolve it, thus beating the Liberals to the punch. Government sources who expressed this view cite as proof of their theory the growing

frequency and intimacy in ties between leaders of the Labor Party and the Liberals, through the mediation of Yahad's Minister 'Ezer Weizman and Avraham Tamir.

It has been learned that relations between the leaders of Herut and the Liberals have recently soured. In a meeting between Vice Prime Minister Yitzhaq Shamir and Science and Development Minister Gid'on Pat, the latter said the Liberals would no longer agree to serve as a Herut satellite nor would they allow Herut to leave them out of future decisions on the Likud's candidate for prime minister. The Liberals are insisting on compensation for their eroded status in the government.

Defense Minister Yitzhaq Rabin yesterday refrained from reacting to Minister Sharon's remarks, but Absorption Minister Ya'aqov Tzur, who is considered a Rabin associate, told *HA'ARETZ*: The government's basic guidelines include an agreement on the need for local arrangements that will allow the IDF to withdraw from Lebanon and be replaced by UNIFIL and army of southern Lebanon [ASL] units. If Sharon raises the issue, this is intended to settle internal accounts within Herut more than to undermine the Cabinet.

Foreign Minister Yitzhaq Shamir's confidants said that he, too, objects to allowing the United Nations to play a central role in the talks that will precede the IDF's withdrawal from Lebanon. Shamir believes that the talks must be direct; however, if the United States responds to Israel's appeal, it will also be possible to conduct them through U.S. mediation.

Senior political sources expressed their view that Sharon's remarks have exposed a bitter argument on Israel's policy in Lebanon between the Likud leaders — who were among the initiators of the war — and the Alignment leaders, who want to speed up the withdrawal from Lebanon and are prepared to make do with adequate, reasonable guarantees for peace in the Galilee that could be supervised from inside Israel, and not necessarily through a continued massive presence in Lebanon. The issue has not yet been brought to a vote in the Cabinet, but it will be discussed by the Cabinet's special forum on security matters before it is brought to the entire Cabinet plenum. A political source noted that at a discussion of the matter in the Inner Cabinet, Sharon did not voice reservations over Defense Minister Yitzhaq Rabin's policy of handing over areas that will be evacuated by the IDF to the ASL and UNIFIL.

Late last week, Israel again made it clear it would not accept a Lebanese proposal to return to the armistice agreement framework. Meanwhile, preparations have begun to draw up a plan for security arrangements, the basics of which are anchored in the 17 May 1983 agreement with Israel. According to that agreement, there will be approximately 10,000 Lebanese troops in southern Lebanon in addition to the ASL forces and UNIFIL battalions.

ITIM adds:

"We welcome Minister Ari'el Sharon for expressing objections to the policy of Prime Minister Shim'on Peres and the Alignment on security and territories affairs," Knesset Member [MK] Meir Kahane wrote in a manifesto last night.

Rabbi Kahane called on Minister Sharon to establish a national bloc in the Knesset, along with the other right-wing parties, to prevent a withdrawal from Lebanon from materializing and avoid what he calls "the waste of funds in the Arab sector of Judaea and Samaria." MK Kahane added that he hopes "to celebrate, together with Minister Sharon, the Simchas Torah festivities in Nabulus next year."

HA'ARETZ parliamentary correspondent adds:

MK Victor Shem-Tov (MAPAM) warned last night that if Prime Minister Peres does not neutralize Industry and Trade Minister Sharon, Sharon will neutralize the entire government. Sharon's statements against the plans of Peres and Rabin to leave Lebanon, and his participation in the Simchas Torah festivities in Hebron — thus expressing support for the Jewish underground suspects — are among the overt signs for this. Sharon vetoed the proposals to withdraw from Lebanon, Shem-Tov noted, and now it is clear that the moment the national unity government is asked to make an operational decision, it will crumble from within because it is on shaky ground.

JERUSALEM POST Critical

TA210721 Jerusalem THE JERUSALEM POST in English 21 Oct 84 p 8

[Editorial: "Sharon Rides Again"]

[Text] Withdrawal from Lebanon is a tough and painful issue for former Defence Minister Ari'el Sharon. That is understandably so, for the final stage of Israel's withdrawal from South Lebanon that is being negotiated now, once more drives home the message of the futility of this costly war which is now well into its third year. And Mr Sharon was the chief architect of that war which began in June 1982 under the guise of Operation Peace for Galilee.

All that is left now of Mr Sharon's grand design of establishing a new political order in Lebanon, in close cooperation with Israel, are negotiations for acceptable security arrangements in South Lebanon which are to protect Israel's northern settlements from terrorist attacks. These negotiations are to be based on a military — not political — agreement with Lebanon, a political understanding with Syria and an expanded role for UNIFIL which is to be deployed in the areas north of the Al-Zahrani river that will be evacuated by the IDF. Policy outlines to that effect were reiterated publicly only last Wednesday, following U.S. Defence Secretary Caspar Weinberger's meeting with Prime Minister Shim'on Peres, Vice Premier and Foreign Minister Yitzhaq Shamir and Defence Minister Yitzhaq Rabin.

After the national unity government was formed five weeks ago, despite Mr Sharon's last minute efforts to sabotage it, he kept a low political profile, focusing his efforts on economic measures in his new role of Industry and Trade Minister. It takes the guile of a man like Sharon to have broken his silence yesterday with a statement accusing Prime Minister Peres and his Labour Party of adopting a defence policy which is fraught with danger for Israel.

For Mr Sharon any arrangement for withdrawing from Lebanon "under the wings of UNIFIL which cooperated with the PLO," as he put it, is unacceptable. He failed, of course, to indicate how Israel is to extricate itself from the Lebanese morass into which he pushed it without some understanding and cooperation from UNIFIL.

Moreover, the need to seek acceptable arrangements with UNIFIL, in the absence of any valid agreements with Beirut — which in any case does not possess the authority or power to implement them — was already recognized during the past year by former Prime Minister Shamir and by former Defence Minister Moshe Arens. Beirut's abrogation of the May 1983 accord with Israel, accepting a Syrian dictate to that effect, clearly pointed the way into this direction.

If Mr Sharon meant to further embarrass Mr Shamir with his statement yesterday, he may well have succeeded. His attempts to throw a spanner into the works of Mr Peres and of Mr Rabin, who are determined to bring about an early withdrawal from Lebanon, however, are likely to fail. From a senior Cabinet minister who had no compunctions about joining a Simchas Torah celebration in Hebron, as an expression of solidarity with the Jewish terrorist suspects and their families, nothing can really come as a surprise.

But if the timing of Mr Sharon's statement yesterday was meant to rock the boat of the precarious national unity coalition at an early stage, he may have miscalculated there as well. For any attempt by Herut to quit the government is not likely to be followed by the Likud's Liberal wing, or, at least, part of it.

It is perhaps no coincidence that Liberal leader Arye Dulzin last night called publicly for the breaking up of the Likud in order to assure the present government stability for a full four-year term.

Rabin Meets Netherlands Parliamentary Committee

TA191202 Tel Aviv ITIM in Hebrew 1140 GMT 19 Oct 84

["Announcement by the Defense Ministry Spokesman" — ITIM headline]

[Text] Jerusalem, 19 Oct (ITIM) — Defense Minister Yitzhaq Rabin today received a delegation of members of the Netherlands Parliament Defense Committee, which is currently touring the area. The defense minister presented Israel's position on discussing security arrangements that will secure the northern settlements and allow the IDF to withdraw from Lebanon.

Group Relays Syrian Guarantees

TA211055 Tel Aviv HA'ARETZ in Hebrew 21 Oct 84 p 2

[Henrietta Bo'az "exclusive" report from Amsterdam]

[Text] Amsterdam — Syria has given guarantees through U.S. mediator Richard Murphy that it will prevent PLO penetrations into Israel from southern Lebanon. This was relayed by the five-member Netherlands parliamentary delegation touring the Middle East which is currently in Tel Aviv.

At a news conference held on Friday at the Netherlands Embassy, it was reported that Syrian Vice President 'Abd al-Halim Khaddam was responsible for these guarantees. Da'ud Da'ud, the leader of the Shi'ite militia Amal in southern Lebanon, told the delegation members that he is strong enough to prevent the PLO from returning to southern Lebanon. The delegation members also said that both Syria and Israel believe that UNIFIL has a crucial role to play in southern Lebanon. At the same time, UNIFIL commander General Callaghan said that his forces, which currently number 6,000 troops, will have to include at least 16,000 men to be effective. The delegation today will visit the Netherlands contingent in the Sinai MFO, and then proceed to Cairo.

U.S. Follow-up Urged

TA211530 Tel Aviv IDF Radio in Hebrew 1505 GMT 21 Oct 84

[Excerpt] In the Cabinet session today, Defense Minister Yitzhaq Rabin reviewed recent events in Lebanon. This review was described as a session of the Ministerial Committee on Security Affairs and, therefore, we cannot release its contents.

At the end of this review, Minister Ari'el Sharon observed: UNIFIL should not be accepted as a partner to the talks with Lebanon, not even as a venue for these talks. In response, a senior source in the prime minister's office made plain this evening that everybody agrees that the Americans should go ahead with their contacts with the Syrians in a bid to reach an agreement with them, according to which they would not move southward after the IDF's withdrawal and would not allow terrorists to infiltrate from their territory. The source added that everybody agrees that the army of southern Lebanon is not the Syrians' business. This army would deploy in the south upon the IDF's withdrawal while UNIFIL would serve as a buffer in the north.

Arens States Condition for IDF Withdrawal

TA202106 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 2100 GMT 20 Oct 84

[Text] Israel has made it clear to Syria that the IDF will not withdraw from Lebanon before the appropriate arrangements for the Galilee's security are made. This was stated by Minister Arens. He emphasized that Israel has no territorial claims on Lebanon and that when the appropriate security arrangements are made the IDF will leave Lebanon. Our correspondent Yona Kohen reports that Minister Arens was talking at a ceremony establishing a fund of grants for the Kerem Deyavne Yeshiva.

Withdrawal From Lebanon Not Due Before Spring

TA220703 Jerusalem THE JERUSALEM POST in English 22 Oct 84 p 1

[Hirsch Goodman and Robert Rosenberg report]

[Excerpt] The government will soon hold a full-scale debate on the IDF's future in Lebanon, based on several alternative plans prepared by the general staff.

Sources told *THE JERUSALEM POST* last night that the chance of a partial withdrawal — i.e. a withdrawal only in the western segment of southern Lebanon — is becoming "more realistic." The sources stressed that there would be no withdrawal on the eastern front until agreement is reached with the Syrians in that area.

The tendency toward a partial withdrawal has grown over the past few weeks, given the refusal of the Lebanese government to enter direct high-level military talks on security problems in the south, and the seeming inability of the UN to define an expanded role for UNIFIL, so that the force can take over areas to be vacated by the IDF. Security sources, however, are divided as to what is to be gained from a partial withdrawal other than the possible improvement in morale in Israel. The IDF will be able to thin out its forces somewhat, but will still be forced to keep thousands of men in Lebanon; the IDF will remain deployed among over 300,000 Shi'ites in the south, and the confrontation line with Syria will remain intact.

Regardless of what decision is taken, *THE POST* was told, it will not be implemented until at least the spring, and certainly not until the Americans try to bring about an overall solution in southern Lebanon that would encompass Israel, Syria and the Government of Lebanon. One of the obstacles seen to such a solution is the refusal of Lebanese Premier Rashid Karami to incorporate the south Lebanese army into the Lebanese Army, a demand Israel has said it will not drop.

DAVAR on Peres Trip, Debt Repayment Proposal

TA191234 Tel Aviv DAVAR in Hebrew 19 Oct 84 p 11

[Amir Oren commentary: "Roshim'on" — Hebrew play on words meaning head and Shim'on Peres]

[Excerpts] Way back in 1492, Christopher Columbus had no idea he had discovered America. On Monday, 8 October 1984, Prime Minister Shim'on Peres also celebrated Columbus Day with a discovery or revelation of sorts, which by week's end had shriveled to familiar, well-documented, and carefully mapped turf: a misunderstanding.

That morning, Peres had a succinct message, in telegram style, from Secretary of State George Shultz as to how U.S. short-term aid could help avert an additional immediate deterioration of Israel's foreign currency problems. Among the possibilities, Shultz mentioned delaying the repayment of debts. Peres took this to mean a U.S. offer, refrained from commenting, and filed the idea away, putting it aside for further clarification. The possibility seemed very attractive, because he thought this was a very clever way of obtaining approximately $500 million in a period (congressional recess) in which the administration has legislative and political difficulties requesting an extraordinary increase in direct aid to Israel.

In working-level talks held later, it emerged that Shultz' officials had a much more theoretical meaning in mind. Shultz, they explained, merely pointed out to Peres that there is a possibility, on a legal basis, for any country that has been given U.S. loans and is faced with a problem paying them back, to delay repayment and pay additional interest when the debt is repaid. The 90-day limit does not mean that this is a 3-month delay in repaying debts, but merely sets a limit on how long the delay will be kept secret, because at the end of the period the President must report the delay to Congress.

One can forgive a greenhorn prime minister who arrives in Washington for talks that were preceded by rushed preparations, who assumes that his interlocutors understand the difference between legal counsel and a political proposal, and who he believes are well-versed in the relevant material from which they take their ideas. Each party to talks views the statements from his personal, or institutional, point of view; a diplomatic and economic understanding [rashumon] can occur when everyone is right, according to their rules of the game.

Matters are a lot more problematic when dealing with Peres' overall approach, as is reflected by these details. Israel took great pains to build the image of a conscientious borrower, even in times of distress. All it takes is one delayed payment to shatter this image, or even to cause things to snowball and create panic among banks lending money to Israel. Because shoring up Israel's credibility in that sense was one of the prime goals — and achievements — of Peres' visit to Washington, it is difficult for me to understand why he could be so delighted with the idea of the deferral, even if it had been more than a mere flitting idea, raised in passing, and was a real proposal. The hints that were dropped sporadically by Jerusalem (and Tel Aviv) that the leak actually killed a wonderful practical solution are evidently based on the assumption that the joint maneuver involving additional grants prior to the 90 days of delay would have escaped the banking world's eyes. But this is not an assumption, but a gamble that is like canceling a pension scheme or life insurance in order to pay back one in a series of mortgages.

From the U.S. standpoint, the problem is not Israel's credibility — after all, this is supposed to be Israel's problem — but the credibility of Israel's implementing its plans. Even prior to, and certainly during the visit, Shultz tried to establish a clear link between implementing a tough economic plan in Israel and a future increase in aid. In Shultz' opinion, it is enough to grant the entire $1.2 billion of fiscal 1985 aid in the first quarter of the fiscal year (now) to plug the gaps in the foreign currency reserve dam; advancing the three later quarters also means a gift of more than $60 million to Israel. In Shultz' opinion, increasing aid in the 1985 fiscal year needs to wait not only for a new administration and Congress, but also for real proof that Israel is implementing its plan to cut the budget, curb inflation, and return to the standard of living of 3 years ago. Only after the Israeli tightens his belt and changes his consumption habits will there be any point in delivering another U.S. food parcel. Shultz and his colleagues were convinced that Peres shared their understanding of the problem. Their favorable impression of him during the visit equaled their disappointment in him the moment he left the cozy cocoon of Washington and New York, only to be thrust again into political and social reality in Israel. The talks with Peres showed them that he talks well. The debt affair diminished his image as a good listener, though. Most important, the U.S. Administration wants to know — and fast — how well Peres can carry out decisions. Expectations are different from a prime minister than they are from an information minister.

Reagan Informs Peres About Arms Sales to Jordan
TA191244 Tel Aviv MA'ARIV in Hebrew 19 Oct 84 pp 1, 11

[Refa'el Mann report]

[Text] Political circles in Israel predict a new arms deal between the United States and Jordan in the next few months.

The United States has begun preparing the ground for such a deal, and President Reagan has made it clear to Prime Minister Shim'on Peres that the U.S. Administration intends to continue arms sales to Jordan.

Reagan made these remarks in the meeting he held with Peres at the White House last week. According to sources in Jerusalem, this was the only issue on which the two men differed. The prime minister reacted to the President's remarks by stating that Israel would not object to arms sales to Jordan, provided these take place after King Husayn joins the peace process.

In the meeting at the White House, President Reagan reiterated the administration's promise that arms sales to moderate Arab countries such as Jordan would not harm Israel's strength. He reiterated the U.S. commitment to maintain Israel's "qualitative edge."

U.S. Secretary of Defense Caspar Weinberger did not raise this possibility in his meeting with the prime minister on Wednesday, but he lavishly praised Husayn's "daring move" in restoring diplomatic relations with Egypt.

In his meeting with the prime minister, Secretary Weinberger said that Egyptian President Husni Mubarak had asked him to supply weapons to Jordan.

Disappointment With Weinberger Visit Expressed
TA191301 Tel Aviv MA'ARIV in Hebrew 19 Oct 84 pp 1, 11

[Refa'el Mann report]

[Text] As it turned out, U.S. Secretary of Defense Caspar Weinberger did not carry to Jerusalem all the positive answers Israel had been expecting.

Contrary to expectations in the Israeli capital, in the wake of the good atmosphere that prevailed in the talks held by Shim'on Peres in Washington last week, Weinberger only supplied partial answers to some of Israel's requests.

Among other things, Jerusalem is disappointed that Weinberger has not yet approved the sale of a weapon that includes U.S.-made elements to a third country. The application for the sale of this weapon was given to the United States some time ago, and Jerusalem had expected the Pentagon not to put any obstacles in the way of this deal, which requires U.S. approval.

As for the possibility that the U.S. ground forces may buy mortars from Israel, Weinberger said that the Pentagon is still examining it. He confirmed that Israeli-made mortars have "priority" status but he refrained from concluding a deal. The U.S. secretary expressed reservations about the reports that a deal of approximately $1 billion was at stake. "That is a lot of mortars and we have no plans to invest such a sum," Weinberger noted.

At the end of his visit, the U.S. secretary invited his Israeli counterpart, Yitzhaq Rabin, to visit Washington "any time it suits him" to continue talks on Israel's needs in the economic and defense spheres. It appears that the visit will take place within a few months.

Arab Notables Criticized for Meeting Weinberger
TA202016 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 2000 GMT 20 Oct 84

[Text] Several West Bank leaders have leveled sharp criticism at notables who attended a dinner given in honor of U.S. Secretary of Defense Caspar Weinberger last week. The *AL-MITHAQ* paper which is affiliated with the Rejectionist Front's organizations also criticized those who attended the dinner. Our correspondent Arye Gus has learned that Bethlehem Mayor Ilyas Frayj and the head of the Hebron Hills area village league, Jamil al-'Amlah, were among the guests. The critics say the United States wants to undermine the PLO's status and to establish an alternative leadership in the territories.

Shamir on Gromyko Meeting, Relations With U.S.
TA191540 Tel Aviv MA'ARIV in Hebrew 19 Oct 84 p 2

[Yehoshu'a Bitzur report]

[Text] "In his meeting with me, Soviet Foreign Minister Andrey Gromyko sought to prove to me that the Soviet Union has always been opposed to the activities of the terrorist organizations and that the Bolshevik movement had from its first days fought against such movements," Vice Prime Minister and Foreign Minister Yitzhaq Shamir recounted in a closed meeting with Likud activists in Ashdod on Wednesday.

The foreign minister added that he spoke to Gromyko in English and that he could see that the Soviet foreign minister understood him. However, Gromyko preferred to speak Russian and Shamir understood him very well. Shamir enumerated to Gromyko the numerous mistakes that had occurred in Russian history which led to very serious results and emphasized that the Soviet Union's present attitude toward Israel is also very seriously wrong.

Shamir stressed that relations between Israel and the United States have never been better than today. "This is a deep and genuine relationship which finds its expression in all walks of U.S. life," he noted.

Mr Shamir added that an Israeli achievement is regarded by the top echelon of the U.S. Administration as a U.S. achievement and that any Israeli failure is also considered its own. In his opinion, this state of affairs is to be credited to Minister Moshe Arens, who scored this big achievement during his 1-year stay in Washington as the Israeli ambassador. Arens laid the foundation for the strategic cooperation between Israel and the United

States. According to Shamir, in recent talks President Reagan has said that the U.S. friendship toward Israel is deep despite the differences of opinion.

Shamir also recounted that in the meetings he held in New York, all 40 foreign ministers he met spoke against the settlements, whereas in his meeting with Peres and Shamir, President Reagan did not even mention the issue. Shamir vehemently denied reports in the U.S. press alleging that Shim'on Peres had come back empty-handed.

Shamir told the Likud activists: "The Likud government was successful in the political, social, and settlement spheres. We were not successful in the economic sphere. I do not want to blame anybody for it, but we must know the truth. We set up the national unity government in order to overcome the economic problems through joint efforts. We must make an effort, and all the Likud factions must act as if there were no divisions in order to repair that which needs mending."

Peres on Economic Woes; Various Plans Eyed

TA211831 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 1705 GMT 21 Oct 84

[Report from the prime minister's office in Jerusalem by Hayim Zissowitz — live]

[Text] The Alignment faction arrived at Peres' office this afternoon, and during the first hour of its meeting with the prime minister the faction heard a survey about the economic difficulties and the government's plans for overcoming the economic crisis.

As far as we know, Shim'on Peres specified to his faction members the difficulties which the government is facing in its attempt to heal the economic ills. Peres said the government is facing three difficulties. First, the entire state budget does not exceed $9 billion, half of which is slated for defense and half of which for civilian purposes. As a result, a cut of even only $1 billion, let alone $2 billion, is a very difficult task. Second, he said, economic growth encourages inflation. Ever since its inception, the State of Israel has opted for an increase in economic growth and tolerated inflationary difficulties. Today too, Israel does not intend to forego economic growth which in turn contributes to an increased inflation rate. Third, Peres told his faction members, the desire to establish a science-enriched economy is also costly since the transfer of workers from simple industries such as textile and wool to science-enriched industries involves large expenditures and professional retraining.

Shim'on Peres also reviewed the results of his trip to the United States. He told his faction members about the requests he made of the U.S. Administration and the promises he received.

He said Israel constitutes a security asset for the Americans; this asset also means financial savings, and as a result Israel has the right to demand economic aid from the United States. Shim'on Peres has ended his remarks and it is now the turn of the faction members to pose questions.

Plan Would Fire Many Workers

TA210723 Jerusalem THE JERUSALEM POST in English 21 Oct 84 pp 1, 2

[Report by economic affairs correspondent Avi Temkin]

[Excerpt] The Finance Ministry is considering plans to fire tens of thousands of workers in the public sector as part of a large reduction in government spending, senior ministry sources said yesterday.

The plans, which include laying off thousands of civil servants and the possibility of implementing a monetary reform, will be presented today by the ministry's director-general, 'Imanu'el Sharon, to Finance Minister Yitzhaq Moda'i.

Sharon headed a special task force of economic experts who prepared different proposals for a comprehensive economic programme.

Moda'i is expected to confer with Prime Minister Shim'on Peres and economics minister Gad Ya'aqobi after hearing a report of the Sharon committee's plan.

The schemes under consideration envisage a large reduction in government spending. The "minimum" plan calls for a cut of $1 billion, in addition to the reduction by the same amount already adopted by the Cabinet. There are also plans for a $1.5b. cut, and in the "maximum" plan, a $2b. slash.

According to the sources there are plans to implement a package deal on prices and taxes among the government, Histadrut and the private employers. There also are plans for monetary reform that would peg prices and wages to the exchange rate for the dollar, which would be followed in a few months by a freeze in the rate of devaluation.

The sources stressed that the Treasury is not optimistic about the chances that the new plan will be implemented. They said it is doubtful whether the government will have the power to convince the Histadrut about the need to adopt such a programme.

'Semi-Dollarization' Considered

TA220656 Jerusalem The JERUSALEM POST in English 22 Oct 84 p 1

[Avi Temkin report]

[Text] The Treasury confirmed yesterday for the first time that it is considering a semi-dollarization plan that would peg wages and prices to the dollar while keeping the shekel as legal tender.

According to the ministry, the plan, which it calls "establishment of a permanent monetary anchor," is one of two alternatives for an accord with the Histadrut being considered by the Treasury. The other proposal is a package deal accord that would not peg the economy to the dollar, but would strive to gradually reduce cost and price increases along the lines of the plan drafted by the former Bank of Israel Governors Moshe Sanbar and Arnon Gafni.

The ministry also said that it will take three or four weeks before any decision is reached, and therefore all talk about a package deal soon is premature. The ministry announcement means that Prime Minister Peres will not be able to present to the Knesset a comprehensive economic plan today, but will have to limit himself to a general survey of government policy and to a description of the steps taken until now to heal the economy.

According to the ministry, both plans would be accompanied by a cut in the budget of some $500 million to $1 billion, in addition to the $1 billion which the Cabinet agreed to axe from budget in September.

The Treasury is busily weighing the anticipated effects of each alternative plan, and its evaluations are to be submitted to Finance Minister Yitzhaq Moda'i. Preliminary estimates last night were presented by ministry Director-General Sharon to Peres, Moda'i and Economics Minister Gad Ya'aqobi. Sanbar and Gafni were present when Sharon made his presentation.

According to the Treasury, a further series of examinations both within the Treasury and with other ministries will be carried out. The results will be presented again to the ministers who will then choose one of the alternative plans. Only then will the real negotiations with the labour federation begin, within the framework of the trilateral Economic Committee set up some weeks ago as a forum to discuss a package deal agreement.

Thus, the ministry calculates the package deal and the execution of the economic scheme will be decided by the end of the first week of November at the earliest.

The ministry also confirmed that it is anticipating the lay-offs of tens of thousands of civil servants, but said that this step will not create unemployment since these workers would be immediately absorbed in the private sector, particularly in export industries.

Debt Deferment Opposed

TA220653 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 0500 GMT 22 Oct 84

[Text] The Finance Ministry is firmly opposed to any deferment of repayment of the debts owed the United States and even to a cancellation of the debts, as was proposed to Shim'on Peres in Washington. People in the Finance Ministry say that Israel will pay all the debts on time because a deferment or cancellation would harm its status in the world's financial markets.

Histadrut Leader Raps Inaction

TA220700 Jerusalem THE JERUSALEM POST in English 22 Oct 84 p 1

[Moy Isacowitz report]

[Excerpt] Tel Aviv — Histadrut Secretary-General Yisra'el Qeysar yesterday attacked the government for its failure to come up with a comprehensive economic programme. At the same time, Qeysar announced that contrary to past pronouncements, the Histadrut is conditionally prepared to accept wage reductions in the framework of a package deal on taxes, prices and wages with the government and the private employers.

Addressing a meeting of the Alignment faction in the Histadrut, Qeysar said that the government had yet to approach the labour federation with concrete proposals for a package deal. The economic steps already taken by the government had been merely reactions to public or economic pressure — and most had been of dubious value, he said.

Qeysar said scornfully that it was natural that the government would blame its failures on the Histadrut. "For as long as the government does not know what it is doing, the finger will be pointed at us as the element preventing the implementation of an economic plan," he said.

Liberal Leader Calls for Breaking Up Likud

TA210724 Jerusalem THE JERUSALEM POST in English 21 Oct 84 p 1

[Text] Liberal leader Arye Dulzin last night called openly for the abrogation of the GAHAL [Gush Herut-Liberalim — Herut-Liberal Bloc] agreement and the breaking up of the Likud into its two main components — Herut and the Liberal Party.

Speaking in a special interview on Israel Television last night, Dulzin, chairman of the Jewish Agency executive, said his proposal is intended to assure the present national unity government of stability for a full four-year term. He recalled that he supported and welcomed the forming of a national unity government, but thought it was necessary for the Liberals to be fully independent in their own political decisions. That was particularly important in view of the internal rift in Herut, which could rock the unity coalition boat. He cited as an example Industry and Trade Minister Ari'el Sharon's statement yesterday. Dulzin suggested that Herut should definitely remain in the unity government after the breaking up of the Likud.

Dulzin said he wrote a letter to Liberal Party chairman Yitzhaq Moda'i two weeks before the elections last July, calling for the breaking up of the Likud immediately after the elections. Moda'i had asked him at the time to wait with his proposal until the government was formed, Dulzin said. The Liberal Party, Dulzin said last night, is in a weak and difficult position at the moment, and sharing government responsibility for four years should give it enough time to reorganize properly.

Shamir on Likud Breakup, Internal Politics

TA212009 Jerusalem Television Service in Hebrew 1900 GMT 21 Oct 84

[Interview with Vice Prime Minister and Foreign Minister Yitzhaq Shamir by Yisra'el Segal at the end of the Herut Executive session in Tel Aviv "a short time ago" — videotaped]

[Excerpt] [Segal] Mr Vice Prime Minister, there is a feeling that a so-called malfunctioning has begun afflicting the national unity government and the Likud. The Liberal ministers have gone as far as calling for the disbandment of the Likud.

[Shamir] I have not heard about any such malfunctioning. I have read about calls to disband the Likud, but these did not come from ministers or from Liberal Party ministers at that. Occasionally, in every government, there are some jarring notes. I hope and I am certain that we will overcome them.

[Segal] If I am not mistaken, you said in the Herut Executive session that there are some bad spirits that are urging the disbandment of the Likud.

[Shamir] I did not mean bad spirits pervading the government. Such spirits have emerged in certain circles outside the government and I think they are in no way justified. What I meant was the relations within the Likud. I think there is no reason or logic to disband the Likud at present. I think the partnership between the Herut Movement and the Liberal Party must continue; it is a partnership that has borne extraordinary and excellent fruit to the country, Herut and the Liberal Party.

[Segal] Sir, when will deputy ministers of the Likud be appointed to the foreign affairs and defense portfolios?

[Shamir] Do not worry, they will be appointed when the time comes and matters will be ironed out.

[Segal] Does this not stem from the difficulties you are facing within the party?

[Shamir] Occasionally there are various constrictions but these are not of the utmost priority.

[Segal] Sir, do you subscribe to Minister Ari'el Sharon's view that debates about a withdrawal from Lebanon should not be conducted under the auspices of the United Nations?

[Shamir] The basic guidelines of this government stipulate that we are in favor of the IDF's pullout from Lebanon amid absolute guarantees — the wording there is different — for security arrangements on our border with Lebanon; in other words, securing the well-being of the Galilee. This is a *sine qua non* and all the rest is arguable and debatable. Generally, we did not and we do not take the UNIFIL troops into consideration as an important factor which may be trusted regarding the establishment of these security arrangements. However, all this may be debated and it is not by way of a *sine qua non*.

Reagan Seen Orchestrating Ties With Vatican

TA211133 Tel Aviv DAVAR in Hebrew 21 Oct 84 p 2

[Amir Oren "exclusive" report from Washington]

[Excerpt] Washington — According to knowledgeable sources, the reports of U.S. attempts to try and soften the Vatican's attitude toward Israel are intended to demonstrate President Reagan's desire to improve Jewish-Christian relations. Although to the best of our knowledge there has been no change in the Vatican's refusal to establish diplomatic ties with Israel until it accepts unacceptable conditions such as the internationalization of Jerusalem, all U.S. television networks highlighted reports on progress in Vatican-Israel contacts.

This deliberate coverage is seen here as an effort on the part of William Wilson, the (first) U.S. ambassador to the Vatican, to prove that his personal friend, President Reagan, is taking firm action to improve ties between Christians and Jews.

Reagan's desire to impinge on traditional Jewish support for the Democrats has evidently been foiled due to the fact that the Jews are afraid Reagan intends to separate state and church here. [sentence as published].

Knowledge of Contacts Denied

TA202012 Jerusalem Television Service in Hebrew 1900 GMT 20 Oct 84

[Text] The Jerusalem Foreign Ministry has announced that if the Vatican decides to establish diplomatic relations with Israel, Israel will welcome this move. At the same time, Jerusalem knows of no recent contacts held on this issue.

U.S. Under Secretary of State Arrives 20 Oct

TA211417 Tel Aviv ITIM in Hebrew 1215 GMT 21 Oct 84

[Text] Ben-Gurion Airport, 21 Oct (ITIM) — Under Secretary of State for Political Affairs Michael Armacost arrived in Israel last night and conferred with U.S. Embassy officials prior to his meeting with Foreign Minister Yitzhaq Shamir on 22 October.

Mr Armacost will continue the talks which he started in Washington with Foreign Ministry Director General David Kimche about U.S.-Israeli cooperation in Third World countries, particularly in Latin America. It is possible that the Lebanese issue will also be raised in the talks.

During his short visit, which takes place in the framework of a regional tour, he will also meet with Prime Minister Peres and with Defense Minister Yitzhaq Rabin. At the airport he was received only by embassy staff when his special plane arrived Saturday night.

Shi'ite Leader on Beirut Embassy Bombing

TA211047 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 1000 GMT 21 Oct 84

[Text] An extremist Shi'ite organization in Lebanon is threatening to take revenge against the United States if it takes retaliatory measures against the organization. Washington has accused the organization of being responsible for the explosion at the U.S. Embassy in Beirut last month [1-second break in transmission].

The commander of the Shi'ite organization, Husayn al-Musawi, published a statement on this matter in the village of Ba'alabakk in the Al-Biqa', in which he says that his organization is not responsible for that incident. He believes that the information forwarded by the U.S. intelligence community to President Reagan is incorrect and is meant to give some justification for retaliatory measures. Yesterday the Marines in charge of security at the U.S. Embassy in Beirut were placed on red alert,

following reports of a plan to explode another booby-trapped car near the embassy building.

Weizman Meets Egypt's Basyuni on Relations

TA211553 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 1500 GMT 21 Oct 84

[Text] Minister 'Ezer Weizman this afternoon conferred with the charge d'affaires of the Egyptian Embassy in Israel, Muhammad Basyuni. Our political correspondent reports that the two discussed all outstanding problems between Israel and Egypt.

South African Minister's Visit Deemphasized

TA211301 Tel Aviv MA'ARIV in Hebrew 21 Oct 84 pp 1, 11

[Text] Roelof F. (Pik) Botha, South Africa's Foreign Affairs and Information Minister, will be in Israel next month for a short visit. Political sources in Jerusalem have reported that the visit is at the South African minister's initiative, following his announcement that he would like to visit Israel around the same time he visits various European countries.

Fearing damage to Israel's efforts to resume ties with African countries, Jerusalem has been trying to play down the significance of the visit. The visit will thus be termed "private," although Botha will meet with top officials.

Botha's request to visit Israel was subject to deliberations between Pretoria and Jerusalem. A top political source in Jerusalem reported last night that Botha said he would like "to visit the holy places," and Israel complied with his request, adhering to the principle that it has never prevented those wishing to visit Israel from doing so.

In internal deliberations, reservations were expressed both in the Foreign Ministry and the prime minister's office about the consent granted for the visit, because of the fear that it might arouse negative reaction in African countries.

Officials believe that the visit could be damaging just when Shim'on Peres' statements in the United States condemning apartheid struck the right chord. It was finally decided to approve the visit, but call it "private."

According to Israeli sources, it appears that Prime Minister Shim'on Peres will not meet with the guest in Israel, but Botha will apparently meet with Vice Prime Minister and Foreign Minister Yitzhaq Shamir, the defense minister, and other personalities. Peres' statements in the United States against apartheid, which he called "an idiotic system," were widely reported throughout South Africa. It has been learned that officials in the South African Government wanted Jerusalem officials to provide the exact wording of Peres' statements.

Nicaragua Promises To Reassess Relations

TA211420 Tel Aviv YEDI'OT AHARONOT in Hebrew 21 Oct 84 pp 1, 9

[Yo'av Qarni report from the United States]

[Text] The first Israeli delegation to visit Nicaragua in 6 years ended a 3-day visit there late last week, and was promised that Nicaragua will "reassess" relations with Israel, "frozen" since 1979. The delegation was headed by Knesset Member Haya Grossman and three other MAPAM representatives, including the party secretary for international relations, Dr Avraham Rosenkier. The MAPAM delegation was the official guest of the Sandinist National Liberation Front, the ruling party in Nicaragua. The contacts that brought about the MAPAM delegation's visit were conducted mainly through the Socialist International. During a midway stopover, Haya Grossman reported that the delegation held extensive talks with Cabinet members and central figures in the ruling party.

Nicaragua's deputy foreign minister, Jose Leon Talavera, told the delegation members that according to information his government has, Israel both finances and equips the rightist rebels fighting against the regime in his country. He claimed Israel established an arms plant in Nicaragua as well.

Police Ministry Moves to East Jerusalem

TA210953 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 0900 GMT 21 Oct 84

[Text] The police affairs ministry was moved today to the government compound in Al-Shaykh Jarrah [in East Jerusalem].

ALGERIA

Further on Visit of France's Mitterrand

Results of Talks Viewed

LD191956 Algiers Domestic Service in French 1830 GMT 19 Oct 84

[Text] Algerian-French political talks, including a private conversation between Presidents Chadli Benjedid and Francois Mitterrand, took place today in Algiers, during a brief working visit of the French head of state, accompanied by the External Relations Minister Mr Claude Cheysson, Secretary-General of the Elysee Palace Mr Jean-Louis Bianco, and Mr Michel Vauzelle, an adviser at the Elysee.

The Algerian and French presidents, and the delegations of the two countries, discussed bilateral questions, including economic cooperation between the two countries, and the files on immigration, as well as the Western Sahara, Chad, and the Middle East. Participating in these talks, considered satisfactory by the spokesman for the Elysee, on the Algerian side were Messrs Ahmed Taleb Ibrahimi, minister for foreign affairs; Abdelhamid Brahimi, the prime minister, Abdelaziz Khellef, minister for commerce, and Larbi Belkheir, secretary-general of the Presidency of the Republic. The ambassadors of Algeria to France and of France to Algeria also attended these talks, which began with private talks between the two heads of state immediately after President Francois Mitterrand's arrival in Algiers this morning at 11:00 hours. He was greeted on his arrival and seen off at his departure by President Chadli Bendjedid and the members of the Algerian delegation.

The working visit which President Mitterrand has just made to Algeria was the the fifth meeting between the president of the Algerian Republic and the president of the French Republic, APS points out. The frequency and the regularity of these meetings reflects a joint will to pursue a dialogue corresponding to the closeness of Algerian-French relations. Today's meeting is all the more significant as it comes in a context in which questions of joint interest are undergoing sensitive developments. In fact, on a bilateral level the quality the two countries each wish to give to their cooperation demand that constant attention be given to all aspects of this cooperation — economic and commercial — to ensure the treatment of long-term mutual interests. Also on an international level, these consulations were useful in light of developments in the situation, notably in the Maghreb, the Middle East, and Africa. The exchange of points of view which took place between the two heads of state permitted, by clarification, a better perception of the concerns of each country, and ensuring at the same time that these concerns be taken into account, thus giving a lot of meaning to the dialogue Algeria and France wish to carry out in serenity and trust.

Mitterrand Departs; Talks Successful

NC192109 Paris AFP in English 1940 GMT 19 Oct 84

[Text] Algiers (AFP) — French President Francois Mitterrand left here for home today after two hours of talks with Algerian President Chadli Bendjedid which both sides said had succeeded in clearing up recent "misunderstandings" between the two governments.

The brief official working visit, which lasted less than eight hours in all, had been mainly intended to dissipate Algerian anger at an impromptu private visit by Mr Mitterrand to Morocco in late August. Morocco is at odds with Algeria over Algeria's support for the Polisario guerrillas which are fighting Morocco for control of the Western Sahara. Mr. Mitterrand's visit to Morocco came shortly after Morocco signed a treaty of union with Libya.

Both French presidential spokesman Michel Vauzelle and Algerian Foreign Minister Ahmed Taleb Ibrahimi described today's talks as a "success." Mr Vauzelle stressed that there was a "climate of confidence" between the two countries. The contacts between France and Morocco "in no way imply approval, nor (that France is) taking sides" between Algeria and Morocco, he added.

The talks covered "the Western Sahara issue, the conflict in Chad, and more generally the situation in Africa and the Middle East," he said, adding that "no subject was left aside."

Mr Taleb Ibrahimi replied in the affirmative when asked if the talks had been a "success" and whether "misunderstandings" between France and Algeria had been dissipated. "The important thing is that cooperation is continuing and that each of us takes the other's concerns into account," he said.

In an initial reaction to the talks, the ALGERIA PRESS SERVICE (APS) news agency said they had "reflected a common will to carry on a dialogue in keeping with the density [as received] of Franco-Algerian relations."

Last month, Algiers had made little attempt to hide its annoyance over Mr Mitterrand's visit to Morocco, which coincided with a Moroccan national referendum on the treaty of union with Libya. Algeria, which has signed a similar treaty with the two other states of the Maghreb (Arab Northwest Africa), Tunisia and Mauritania, was strongly criticial of the Libyan-Moroccan accord, and viewed Mr Mitterrand's visit as a sign of approval for it.

French Spokesman on Talks

LD192114 Algiers Domestic Service in Arabic 1900 GMT 19 Oct 84

[Text] The Elysee spokesman has pointed out in a statement to journalists prior to the French president's departure from Algiers, that in addition to bilateral relations and current issues, human problems and economic cooperation between the two countries were discussed during the Algerian-French talks. With regard to human problems, especially Algerian emigration to France, the Elysee spokesman stressed that guarantees were given concerning the freedom and dignity of migrant labor in France. On economic cooperation between the two countries, Vauzelle [spokesman at the Elysee] said that the talks dealt with issues of gas, oil, and large contracts. Vauzelle pointed out that committees will soon meet to discuss all pending issues. In

conclusion, Vauzelle stressed the two sides' desire for consultation.

National Assembly Delegation Departs for Tunis

LD221156 Algiers APS in English 1035 GMT 22 Oct 84

[Text] Algiers, 22/10/84 (APS) — A delegation of the People's National Assembly (APN) led by Mr Mohamed Abdelaziz, member of the APN Foreign Affairs Commission and member of the Executive Committee of the African Parliaments Union left yesterday, Algiers for Tunis in order to take part to works of the 14th Executive Committee session of the African Parliament Union which will be held in the Tunisian capital from 22 to 24 October 1984. [sentence as received].

During this session, besides the examination of administrative and financial questions, there is the survey of two points, the first one relating to the development of the local technology and the industrialization in Africa, the second one to the part of the scientific and technical teaching in the development of Africa.

Works of the session come into the frame of the preparation of the 8th conference of the African Parliaments Union which will be held in Dakar (Senegal) on March 1985. It is worth recalling that Algeria ensures the chairmanship of the African Parliaments Union since the 7th conference held in Algiers on March 1984.

LIBYA

Tripoli Says USSR To Help Build Nuclear Power Station

LD201448 Tripoli Domestic Service in Arabic 1330 GMT 20 Oct 84

[Text] JANA has learned that serious talks are now in progress between the Secretariat for Energy in the Socialist Peoples Libyan Arab Jamahiriyah and the State Committee for Economic Affairs in the USSR, aimed at initiating cooperation in constructing the first electronuclear power station in Libya, which will be comprised of two ordinary pressured water reactors with a total capacity of 880 MW. The station will increase energy in the Jamahiriyah and will link all electric power stations now in operation with the nuclear station.

The secretary for energy has stated that the Jamahiriyah nuclear program aims at the use of atomic energy for peaceful purposes and is in line with the Green Book, which calls for progress, emancipation, and peace. It is also in line with the desire to spread the green color, the color of development and life, throughout the world. We have made it a point to devote all our technical capabilities and resources and nuclear program to peaceful purposes.

He said: We will begin implementation of the first electronuclear power station which will produce 880 MW of electricity. We are also inaugurating 26 radioactive isotopes of reactor research equipment used in our hospitals in treating some diseases and in industry to carry tests on industrial products. In agriculture, we use them to produce new types of seeds and preserve fish and food.

He said that an international seminar was held last month at the nuclear research center with the cooperation of the International Atomic Energy Commission on the use of research reactors in basic sciences in which over 50 researchers and scientists from 24 world countries participated. They used all available material resources at the nuclear research center.

All expressed their admiration at the Great 1 September Revolution's devotion of Libyan material resources for the creation of a technical and scientific upsurge aimed at spreading peace and progress for all.

Al-Qadhdhafi Receives Saudi Envoy, Tunisian Minister

LD192344 Tripoli Voice of Greater Arab Homeland in Arabic 2300 GMT 19 Oct 84

[Text] The brother leader of the revolution received Shaykh 'Ali Musallam, envoy of King Fahd ibn 'Abd al-'Aziz of Saudi Arabia, yesterday evening. The brother leader also received Beji Caid Essebsi, Tunisian minister of external affairs, who is currently visiting the Socialist People's Libyan Arab Jamahiriyah.

Al-Humaydi Receives Tunisia's Caid Essebsi

LD211838 Tripoli JANA in English 1436 GMT 21 Oct 84

[Text] Tripoli, Muharram 26, October 21, JAMAHIRIYAH NEWS AGENCY — Major al-Khuwaylidi al-Humaydi this morning received Beji Caid Essebsi, the Tunisian foreign affairs minister, who is currently on a visit to the Socialist People's Libyan Arab Jamahiriyah.

The meeting focused on the discussion of existing cooperation between the two sisterly countries as well as means to develop this cooperation in various fields.

YAR Deputy Prime Minister Arrives in Tripoli

GF210912 Sanaa Domestic Service in Arabic 1830 GMT 20 Oct 84

[Excerpt] Lieutenant Colonel Mujahid Abu Shawarib, deputy prime minister for domestic affairs and member of the Standing Committee, arrived in Tripoli, Libya, today on a visit to the Socialist People's Libyan Arab Jamahiriyah.

YAR Minister Briefs Al-Qadhdhafi

LD212117 Tripoli JANA in Arabic 1820 GMT 21 Oct 84

[Text] Tripoli, 21 October — The brother leader of the revolution this evening received Lieutenant Colonel Mujahid Abu Shawarib, YAR deputy prime minister, who delivered a written message from Col 'Ali 'Abdallah Salih containing a review of the current Arab situation and the results of the recent visit of Col 'Ali 'Abdallah Salih, YAR president, to the Soviet Union. Lt Col

Abu Shawarib acquainted the brother leader with the treaty between YAR and the Soviet Union.

MOROCCO

Libya's Al-Turayki Arrives for Talks With Belkziz

LD192043 Rabat Domestic Service in Arabic 1500 GMT 19 Oct 84

[Text] The Socialist Peoples Libyan Arab Jamahiriyah secretary of the People's Bureau for Foreign Liaison, Mr 'Ali 'Abd al-Salam al-Turayki arrived moments ago in Fes. The line is open to the radio correspondent in Fes for more details:

Mr 'Abd al-Salam al-Turayki, the Libyan Secretary of the People's Bureau for Foreign Liaison accompanied by the permanent secretary, Mr Muhammad Abu al-Qasim al-Zuwayy, and the assistant secretary, Mr Karmal Hasan al-Maqhur, arrived this afternoon. The secretary of the People's Bureau was met by the minister of foreign affairs, Mr Abdelouahed Belkziz, the minister of interior, Mr Driss Basri, and the governor of Fes, Moulay [name indistinct].

On this occasion, the secretary of the People's Bureau for Foreign Liaison gave the following statement to the press:

[Begin recording][Words indistinct] the Arab African federation between the Kingdom of Morocco and the Libyan Jamahiriyah. I consider that we have become one country and one state. This country is the nucleus of the Arab Maghreb unity, and the nucleus of the comprehensive unity of the Arab nation. My visit is at the invitation of [word indistinct] Brother Abdelouahed Belkziz for coordinating the postions, and even more than coordinating the positions, adopting united positions towards the issues. I also carry a message from brother leader of the Al-Fatih Revolution to his brother His Majesty King Hassan concerning the Arab situation and the international situation. I will also meet my colleague brother Abdelouahed Belkziz to discuss issues we have discussed in New York. During the meetings of the UN General Assemly, the Moroccan and Libya delegations were one delegation which worked a joint action. I am happy to make this visit to Morocco. [end recording]

King Hassan Receives Al-Turayki

LD201933 Rabat Domestic Service in Arabic 1500 GMT 20 Oct 84

[Text] This afternoon at the royal palace at Fes, King Hassan II received a Libyan delegation consisting of Dr 'Ali 'Abd al-Salam al-Turayki, the secretary of the People's Committee for Foreign Liaison; Karmal Hasan al-Maqhur, the secretary for energy and the assistant secretary general of the Arab-African Federation; and Abu al-Qasim al-Zuwayy, the resident secretary of the Federation.

From the Moroccan side, the audience was attended by Driss Basri, the minister of the interior; Dr Abdelouahed Belkziz, the minister of state in charge of foreign affairs; Ahmed Reda Guedira, the king's adviser; and Abdelhakim Laraki, the Moroccan ambassador to Libya as well as Muhammad Abu al-Qasim, the secretary of the Jamahiriyah Bureau in Rabat.

TUNISIA

Bourguiba Receives Jordan Information Minister Sharaf

JN191449 Amman Domestic Service in Arabic 1200 GMT 19 Oct 84

[Text] Tunis — This morning, Tunisian President Habib Bourguiba received Information Minister Layla Sharaf. Mrs Sharaf conveyed the regards of His Majesty King Husayn to the president. President Bourguiba asked Mrs Sharaf to convey his best regards and respect to His Majesty King Husayn and the Jordanian people.

The talks dealt with various Arab issues and the current circumstances affecting them. President Bourguiba reviewed his experience in national struggle and emphasized the importance of working for a unified, cooperative Arab stand to overcome the crisis within the Arab nation.

The Jordanian ambassador in Tunis, Nabih al-Nimr, attended the meeting.

Information Cooperation Agreement Sign

JN191513 Amman Domestic Service in Arabic 1200 GMT 19 Oct 84

[Text] Tunis — Information Minister Layla Sharaf reviewed with Mahmud al-Mas'adi, speaker of the Tunisian National Assembly, the current Arab situation and what the Arab group in UNESCO can do to preserve the unity of the organization. As chairman of the UNESCO Executive Council, Al-Mas'adi emphasized the Arab group's interest in serving informational and educational issues.

An agreement on cooperation in the information field between Jordan and Tunisia was signed in Tunis today. Information Minister Layla Sharaf signed the agreement for Jordan and Information Minister Abderrazak Kefi signed the agreement for Tunisia. The agreement provides for strengthening relations between the two countries in the various informational fields.

WESTERN SAHARA

APS: SDAR Official Affirms Assaults To Continue

LD201106 Algiers APS in Arabic 0800 GMT 20 Oct 84

[Excerpts] Algiers, 20 Oct (APS) — Umar Hadrani, member of the Polisario Political Bureau, stressed in an 18 October statement to APS that one of the stages of "the Greater Arab Maghreb" assault, devoted to destroying the defense 'wall' which protects the large Moroccan military base at Zag, southern Morocco, is continuing. He explained that the Saharan fighters at present "are now intensely engaging" Moroccan reinforcements arriving from Bu Craa and Amgala, "futilely hoping to defend the wall and the Moroccan defense machinery at Zag."

Hadrani went on to add: "Regardless of the statements of the Western information media, this assault can expose the true aims of Hassan II, represented in continuing the military escalation and ignoring the political solution proposed by the Organization of African Unity and the United Nations."

Hadrani went on to say: "What is the purpose of the concentration of the [word indistinct] forces over the past few days in Zag region if it is not for bolstering aggression." He stressed that the commander of the Moroccan military campaign in Western Sahara, Colonel Banani, has stated that "Morocco is intent on military escalation even if it leads to setting the Arab Maghreb region on fire."

Umar Hadrani mentioned in this respect that "Morocco is still the sole defender of imperialist interests in Northwest Africa." He pointed out that "its expansionist policy is dictated by private interests and carries it out against countries which work with sincerity and genuineness to make the greater Maghreb independent and economically strong, within which the independent SDAR would play an appreciable role."

Algiers: Saharan Statement on Moroccan Casualties
LD201322 Algiers Domestic Service in Arabic 1200 GMT 20 Oct 84

[Text] A statement released this morning from the Saharan Information and Culture Ministry of the Saharan Government stated that the forces of the Saharan people's Liberation Army have inflicted on the forces of the Royal Moroccan Army during assaults carried out between 1 and 15 October the following: massive human and material losses, including 209 soldiers killed, 382 wounded, and 10 captured; 17 troop-carriers and 13 armored vehicles, including type 105 tanks, destroyed; and scores of mortars of various caliber in addition to [word indistinct], artillery batteries, ammunitions depots, and various other quantities of arms and ammunition destroyed.

ETHIOPIA

AFP: Tigrean Spokesman Details Recent Operation

NC212054 Paris AFP in English 2040 GMT 21 Oct 84

[Text] Khartoum, Oct. 21 (AFP) — Tigrean guerrillas killed or wounded several hundred Ethiopian troops and are holding 10 foreigners — including an Australian, Britons, and Americans — after an assault on a town in northern Ethiopia on Friday, a spokesman for the Tigray People's Liberation Front (TPLF) said here today.

Yemane Kidane of the TPLF said the guerrillas took control of the garrison town of Lalibela, about 450 kms (280 miles) north of Addis Ababa.

The guerrillas are holding four German relief workers from the International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC), comprising leader Markus Muller and three nurses, and six tourists — two British, two Americans, one Australian and one Finn, he said.

Mr. Kidane added that they were free to move around the town, although he said they were "in custody" by virtue of being there.

He said the TPLF had contacted the ICRC in Khartoum and told them the four relief workers were safe. "We are very keen their relief operations continue," he said.

The spokesman added that the tourists were also safe, although he did not identify them. He said the tourists would be allowed to "continue their tour in the worst drought affected areas of Wollo and Tigray in northern Ethiopia" and added: "If the ICRC delegation members want to leave because of the war situation it is up to them, and if they want to go on working we appreciate it very much".

He said 120 prisoners were taken after a 3-hour battle at the town.

KUNA: Eritreans Appeal for Pressure on Government

LD192224 Kuwait KUNA in Arabic 1429 GMT 19 Oct 84

[Text] Kuwait, 19 Oct (KUNA) — The Eritean revolutionaries appealed to the international community today to exert pressure on the Ethiopian Government to negotiate with the Eritrean revolutionaries and reach a peaceful solution that guarantees the legitimate rights of self-determination and national independence for the Eritrean people.

A statement distributed here today by the supreme committee for preparing the meeting of the Eritrean National Council on the occasion of the 10th anniversary of the (?revolution) said: "The situation in Eritrea gives cause for fear and concern because of the drought and famine caused by the Ethiopian authorities' use of all the resources and aid to consolidate their military strength."

It called on the international community to work toward stopping supplies to othe Ethiopian war machine used against the Eritrean people. The statement called for an international committee to be formed to rescue the Eritrean people threatened with death as a result of the famine caused by the drought and the [words indistinct] adopted by the Ethiopian Government.

At the end of their statement the Eritrean revolutionaries called for cooperation with the Eritrean [word indistinct] organizations, "the only competent authority having complete knowledge of the situation of the Eritrean people."

KENYA

Coverage of Visit of Egypt's Butrus Ghali

Ghali Delivers Mubarak Message

NC191852 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1715 GMT 19 Oct 84

[Text] Nairobi, 19 Oct (MENA) — Kenyan President Daniel arap Moi has received a written message from President Husni Mubarak bearing on some African issues and on Egyptian-Kenyan relations. The message was delivered by Dr Butrus Ghali, minister of state for foreign affairs, during his meeting with President Moi today. The meeting was attended by Elijah Mwangale, Kenyan minister of foreign affairs, and Ahmad Hajjaj, Egypt's ambassador to Nairobi.

After the meeting, Ghali said that diplomatic coordination between Presidents Mubarak and Moi is meant to serve stability and peace in Africa and overcome obstacles to African solidarity within the OAU. Ghali added that the Kenyan president has accepted an invitation by Mubarak to visit Egypt on a date to be fixed later.

Dr Ghali met afterwards with the Kenyan foreign minister and senior Foreign Ministry officials and discussed with them arrangements for convening the joint committee whose formation was decided by Mubarak and Moi during their meeting last February in Nairobi. The two sides agreed to hold the first session of the committee next February in Cairo.

Ghali Press Conference

EA201408 Nairobi KNA in English 1930 GMT 19 Oct 84

[Text] Nairobi, 19th Oct — The people of Egypt value and cherish very much the positive policies of Kenya under the wise leadership of H.E. President Moi and appreciate the continued support of Kenya for the people of South Africa and Namibia and the Palestine people. The minister of state for foreign affairs of Egypt, Dr Butrus Ghali said this today in his country's embassy in Nairobi during a press conference.

The minister started by thanking the Kenyan Minister for Foreign Affairs Mr Elijah Mwangale for inviting him to Kenya, where he said he had the privilege of meeting not only the people of Kenya, but the president as well. He added that he gave President Moi a special message from the president of Egypt, Husni Mubarak, and that the two discussed matters concerning bilateral relations, matters concerning Africa, the Nonaligned Movement and the Third World in general.

The Egyptian minister also said that last February when the Egyptian president visited Kenya, he and President Moi decided to form a joint ministerial committee to discuss ways and means of furthering the relations between the two sister states in all fields. This committee, he added, will meet in Cairo next year in February to give a new momentum to the relations between the two countries.

One of the major aims of Egyptian diplomacy is to help establish lasting peace in the Middle East, the minister said when replying to a question from a pressman. That is why Egypt and other friendly countries like the USA (America) has to spend time and resources to look for mines suspected to have been planted in the Suez Canal by Libya. Egypt, he went on, will try her best and see that the security of the Red Sea and the Suez Canal is not tampered with.

Asked if it was true that his country is considering a merger with Jordan, the foreign minister replied that his country has no intention of merging politically with Jordan, but is committed to strengthening and fostering relations in the interest of peace and complete lasting peace in the Middle East.

On the Sahara and Chadian issues, the minister said that African leaders ought to be left alone to solve more pressing issues of Africa like the Namibian issue, the South African issue, the drought problem, and issues like the Chadian and Saharan problem must not be encouraged to threaten the continental organization (OAU) and or tackled at the expense of African unity. African unity, the foreign minister said, comes first, and with it other African problems can easily be solved. Egypt will try and see that a consensus within the African states is reached as to the venue and date of the next OAU summit. His country, he added, will do its best to see that the summit does not fail.

On African states that are starting diplomatic relations with Israel, the minister said that Egypt considers all African states mature enough to take independent and reasonable and rational stands and it is their problem if they find it rational to start diplomatic relations with Israel.

President Moi Speaks on Kenyatta Day

EA201957 Nairobi KNA in English 0938 GMT 20 Oct 84

["Full text" of President Daniel arap Moi's address during the celebration of Kenyatta Day, 20 October 1984, at Nyayo Stadium]

[Text] Nairobi, Oct 20 (KNA) — My Dear Kenyans: We are assembled here today to observe a special national day, which we have set aside each year to remind ourselves of the long and bitter struggle for freedom which culminated in the arrest of our late founding father of the Kenya nation, Mzee Jomo Kenyatta, thirty-two years ago. While we pay tribute to those who fought for so long and sacrified so much for the independence of our country, let us on this occasion also pose and reflect on the vision which inspired the struggle for uhuru [freedom].

As Mzee Jomo Kenyatta always reminded us, our freedom was not handed to us on a silver platter. It took determined perseverance and unshakable unity of purpose to win back our freedom and human dignity. We therefore must not forget that the same unity must continue to be the cornerstone in consolidating our nationhood.

The objectives and aspirations of our nationhood have been stated in the successive development plans, various policy guidelines on specific issues, our ruling party manifestos, and in my own public pronouncements. In a nutshell, our aim has been to translate in practical terms, our independence into tangible opportunities for improving the well-being of our people.

In pursuit of this goal, our country has made much progress, but there are still many challenges which we must face and overcome.

On this occasion, I consider it appropriate to briefly speak on some of the achievements which we can rightfully be proud of when we look back over the past 20 years. Indeed, it is with pride to note that the cooperative movement which was hardly known at independence, today contributes 57 percent of our GNP. Most of the activities of co-operatives are geared towards the improvement of the welfare of small-scale farmers and the rural community, which was for 70 years neglected by colonialism. While we can express satisfaction with the progress that has been made in this area, we must also appreciate that there is now room for cooperatives to expand their investments and cover agro-industries, particularly small-scale food and vegetable processing.

Our energy sector has also achieved tremendous progress despite many setbacks resulting from international developments, about which we have little control. I would like at this point, to mention some of the steps we are taking to reduce our dependence on external sources of energy. We have intensified efforts to search for on- and off-shore domestic petroleum, especially in the northern, eastern and northeastern parts of the country. In addition, we shall soon undertake a study into all the relevant parameters for the introduction of coal into our system. The expansion of hydro-power and geothermal generation of electricity will be continued. The rural electrification programme will receive greater emphasis with more funds being allocated during the next 5 years. Electricity is now being regarded as an essential service in the rural areas along with clean water, access roads, housing, efficient telecommunications, and other social needs.

Our transport and communications sector has also registered tremendous growth during the period. At independence we had 41,000 km of classified roads of which only 1,800 km were bitumenized. Today, we have 54,000 km of classified roads which includes 6,770 km of bitumenized roads spread throughout our republic. During the coming years, emphasis will be placed on the selective strengthening and up-grading of the heavily used major highways, the construction of bridges and culverts, and gravelling our major and minor roads. We shall continue improving our rural access roads to facilitate efficient movement of farm produce from all rural areas to market centres.

You will recall that on the Madaraka Day this year, I reminded you all of the need to share the cost of services with the government. This is the only way we can hope to expand these services to benefit more wananchi (citizens). One example of this cost-

sharing is the trunk roads toll system which we introduced recently. We all accept that in order to maintain our roads in a usable condition we must regularly regravel, patch up, and reseal worn-out sections. Regular maintenance of our roads means that we have to spend some 600,000,000 shillings annually. Through the introduction of road tolls we expect road users to contribute 10,000,000 shillings which is only two percent of what it costs the nation to keep our roads in good repair.

Turning now to education, I wish to express my gratitude to wananchi who have responded to my government's call to construct additional physical facilities for the 8-4-4 system in primary schools. There are, however, a few districts which have lagged behind, and I wish in this regard, to remind leaders of those areas to ensure that all primary schools in their areas have the necessary facilities constructed before the end of 1984. The new syllabus for the programme is ready, and teachers, as well as primary schools inspectors, have already undertaken the required inservice courses. Some 11,540 teachers are being recruited in readiness for the additional standard eight classes, and these will be posted to their respective schools by December this year. We already have nearly 123,000 primary school teachers in the country. Thirty-one percent of them are untrained. In order to improve this situation and to enable us satisfy the increasing demand for these teachers, a three-year inservice course will be conducted in all the 15 primary teacher training colleges in addition to the regular two-year course.

On health we have, for a long time recognized that it is vital for our people to have the highest attainable standard of health which will promote their creativity, productivity, and self-confidence. In our determination to achieve this goal, emphasis will continue to be placed on educating wananchi on how to adopt life styles which discourage the spread of diseases and which promote good health. Through effective and efficient implementation of health strategies, we have for example, managed to increase the life expectancy of Kenyan males from 40 years at independence to 53 years, and that of females to 56 years. Although this is below the rate existing in developed countries, it is nevertheless an encouraging achievement.

Another area that has been of concern, is the provision of water for every Kenyan. This is an area where we shall continue to invest more of our resources in order to achieve our objective of supplying every Kenyan home with good water. Already, we have achieved some commendable results in sending water supplies closer towards our rural homes. For most areas the average distance our people have to travel to get water has been reduced by one-half. Today there is no area in the country that has populated centres which are more than 1.8 km away from a water point in the dry season. Ten years ago people in such centres had to travel an average of 3.5 km. Reduction of the distance to water points is our current target, particularly in the drier areas of our country.

I have highlighted these developments in a few of our sectors to indicate our achievements over the past 20 years. In essence, my message is that the remarkable transformation we have experienced in these and other sectors was not brought about by some kind of magic. It is a direct result of our national unity, hard work, and unwavering commitment to our objectives.

In more general terms, you are all aware that unfavourable economic conditons have reduced the growth of most economies in the world. Kenya is no exception in this regard. We have experienced a substantial reduction in our economic growth. Although the austerity measures we introduced to reactivate our economy succeeded in reducing the severity of this undesirable situation, we still expect little growth of our economy during 1984-85.

I wish, however, to assure Kenyans that all possible steps will be taken to ensure that projects in drought-stricken areas will be implemented. Although it may become necessary to postpone other less labour-intensive projects which also have a large local funding in order to complete on-going projects, especially those which we have to implement in co-operation with our friends from outside.

Immediately after our independence, we decided to develop a nation where people of different cultural backgrounds could live harmoniously and peacefully, bound together by a common bond of the love for our motherland. We developed a democratic system of government which we are now all proud of. We embarked on our own unique system of harambee [Kenyan motto: pulling together] which we cherish and which has won world-wide acclaim. And through our national philosophy of love, peace, and unity we shall continue to overcome the problems which are part and parcel of the development process.

Since you gave me the heavy responsibility of guiding this nation six years ago, I have worked tirelessly to ensure that Kenyans enjoy better lives. What I wish to tell you today, as a reminder, is that independence means a resolve on our part to be in command of our destiny. In our efforts to improve the living conditons of our people, we must understand and accept that it is only through dedication and hard work that these objectives can be achieved. And as I have said on several occasions before, our ruling party KANU has a vital role to play in providing our national ship with the necessary guidance. This sense of direction is easily blurred when a few people decide to stray from the mainstream with the intention to confuse Kenyans for their own selfish motives. KANU leadership, at all levels, must be constituted of individuals who have the interest of our nation at heart. Kenyans have no room for idle people and we certainly shall not entertain anyone who refuses to join us in defending what we fought so hard to achieve, whether within or outside our borders.

It is for this reason that I have been engaged in the pursuit of peace with all our neighbours and economic co-operation with all the nations of the world. Since last Kenyatta Day, I have travelled to our neighbouring states of Tanzania, Sudan, Ethiopia and Somalia, in search for peace and stability for our region.

The leaders of those countries, including Uganda, have also visited Kenya. In my discussions with them, we have spared no effort to resolve any outstanding issues which may have arisen among us. I wish therefore, to assure our neighbours and all friendly countries in the world, that we in Kenya, are ready, as we have always been, to work with all other countries for the mutual benefit of our people. We recognize that peace is a prerequisite for economic development for any nation.

I also wish to specifically refer to the continuing improved relations between us and Somalia. Kenyans are aware that, through brotherly discussions, some of the people of Kenya who had fled to Somalia have now returned home and the shifta [bandit] menace which has plagued our country since independence is no longer a major preoccupation. We welcome those who have returned to join the rest of Kenyans in the task of nation building.

While we celebrate the success of our freedom struggle today, our happiness and joy is not complete so long as there is perpetuation of suffering and human injustice against our brothers and sisters in Namibia and South Africa. We have, here in Kenya, always believed that it is the moral duty of all humanity to defend and sustain human dignity, which is the basis for evolution and destiny of all just societies. This is the reason for our unflinching support of all the freedom fighters in that unhappy region of our continent. Indeed, history has confirmed that all oppressive systems are doomed to fail by their very nature. We are therefore confident that the determination of the freedom fighters in Namibia and inside South Africa, which has the support of all peace-loving people of the world, will soon force the promoters of this despicable system to give it up.

In conclusion, every Kenyan knows that 32 years ago we sought to achieve unity, co-operation and peaceful coexistence so that we can develop. This is the same spirit that we must hold high today in order to achieve our ultimate goals. There cannot be a better way to remember our heroes than to apply all our energy and make full and wise use of all our resources so that we are well led, well educated, well sheltered, and in good health.

SOMALIA

President Condemns Ethiopian Raids; Calls for Talks

LD211719 Mogadishu Domestic Service in Somali 0720 GMT 21 Oct 84

[Speech by President Siad Barre on the occasion of the 21 October Revolution; date, place unknown — read by announcer]

[Excerpts] We have good relations based on good neighbourliness, peace, and cooperation with all our neighbours except the Ethiopian regime. We highly value and welcome with open arms the good relations between us and Kenya. We must strengthen and promote economic, commerce, and other related areas.

Relations between us and Djibouti are very good and based on the emotional, social, and blood relations between the two peoples and nations. Challayal, for many years tension has prevailed in the Horn of Africa. In the past few years this has assumed an international dimension following the appearance of foreign troops on the scene, which grossly interfered.

The core of the conflict is the confrontation between black colonialist Ethiopia and the people it colonizes who are struggling for self-determination, nationhood, and political independence. It is fortunate that many nations and communities have understood the truth and the root cause of this problem despite the great effort by the Addis Ababa regime to habitually hoodwink and confuse international opinion or hide itself behind a smoke screen.

We once again remind the Abyssinian colonizers that no one can halt the tide of history. Peoples who are determined gain their freedom cannot be subdued by amassed weapons, military treaties, and the calling in of foreign forces. The European colonizers, who were better equipped with technology, resources, and experience than colonialist Ethiopia, were forced to give up and leave in broad daylight the Third World countries they were colonizing.

We would like to advise the Abyssinians to open their minds to the realization that the colonial era has long been over and that granting freedom to peoples struggling for their rights and subsequently enjoying good neighbourliness and cooperation with them is in the interests of both parties. Somalia gives practical support to these people who are struggling for their just rights to self-determination on the basis that it is a human right for every community and nation to determine its own destiny.

Referring to the current problems between Somalia and the Ethiopian regime, he said: There should be no need for me to mention this over and over again, because it is known by everybody and I have spoken about it many times, but I would like to remind the Ethiopian regime that repeated raids and constant threats will not cow Somalia. No amount of raids and threats can make Somalia yield. Somalia has the means and capability to counter any attack and provocation directed against it.

However, our sense of responsibility will allow us to engage in constant wars and conflicts which are not in the interests of the two peoples and countries. Therefore, in pursuit of our policy of peace, we once again call upon the Ethiopian regime to immediately withdraw its troops from the two areas of SDR territory of Baambale and Galadogob captured on 30 June 1982, and thereafter, with open minds, discuss the gigantic problem between us at a place of their choice and time convenient to them.

Challayal, in conclusion I would like to thank, in the name of the Somali people, the friendly countries, international organizations, and individuals who have helped us during this period and who continue to extend a helping hand to us. We say thank you very much.

Siad Barre Meets With U.S. Envoy Walters

LD211019 Mogadishu Domestic Service in Somali 0330 GMT 21 Oct 84

[Text] SDR President Challe Mohamed Siad Barre last night received at the Presidency U.S. Special Envoy Vernon Walters and his delegation, who arrived here yesterday for a visit. Challe Mohamed Siad Barre and the envoy discussed the strengthening of the existing friendly relations between their two countries. Mr Walters, who is representing the U.S. President, and the delegation accompanying him will take part in the 15th anniversary of the 21 October Revolution. Permanent Secretary of the Foreign Ministry Challe Ahmad Mohamed Adan was present at the occasion.

CAMEROON

President Biya Leaves for 'Private Trip' to Europe

AB211410 Yaounde Domestic Service in English 1400 GMT 21 Oct 84

[Text] The president of the republic. His Excellency Paul Biya, leaves Cameroon today for a private trip to Europe.

CHAD

Brazzaville Reconciliation Conference Draws Near

Delegation Leaves for Meeting

AB182240 Ndjamena Domestic Service in French 1845 GMT 18 Oct 84

[Text] The Chadian delegation to the reconciliation conference on Chad, which is scheduled for 20 October in Brazzaville, left Ndjamena this afternoon for the Congolese capital. The 21-member delegation is entrusted with the full power of the head of state to meet with the opponents.

Apart from Foreign Minister Gouara Lassou, who is leading the delegation, seven other Cabinet members are also included. They are: Taher Guinassou, Mahamat Ghoua, Hassan Djamouss, Yorongar Le Moiban, Brahim Seibn, Mbaibikel Ngarari, and Amos Raoulengar. Nine members from the Central Committee of the National Union for Independence and Revolution are also in the delegation. They are: Mahamat Nouri, Mahamat Djibert, (Benoit) Kassire Koumacoy, Moussa Nadja, Ali Salim, Abdoulaye Douto, Mbogo Ngague, Mamadou Brahim Tidei, and Moktar Bachar. Other members from the National Advisory Council are: Mahamadou Bisso, Doungous Kimto, and Lawan Adjid. An officer of the Chadian Armed Forces, Major Ganembang Zamtato, is also in the delegation.

Dismay Voiced at Libyan Presence

AB201452 Paris AFP in French 1403 GMT 20 Oct 84

[Text] Ndjamena, 20 Oct (AFP) — The Libyan delegation in Brazzaville, where a preparatory meeting on national reconciliation in Chad opens today at 1500 GMT, will "hold the leash and have Libya participate in this exclusively national meeting through its Chadian lackeys," the CHADIAN NEWS AGENCY, ATP, stated today. It will be recalled that a Libyan delegation of about 10 people is present in Brazzville.

The dangers, which have been expressed several times by Chadian authorities, are being confirmed with the presence of about 10 Libyans in the Congolese capital, ATP stressed, adding that the Libyan presence at the Brazzaville meeting is aimed at negatively influencing the trend of discussions and at sabotaging this meeting.

The agency indicates that during the abortive Addis Ababa conference last January on the same issue, "We saw them (Libyans) within the Goukouni Oueddei delegation (president of the Transitional National Union Government)." After recalling that the Ndjamena government sent a delegation of about 20 persons to the Brazzaville meeting, which demonstrates, according to it, the interest Ndjamena has in the meeting, ATP stated that the "fuzziness shrouding the opposition groups invited to the Brazzaville meeting calls for prudence and realism."

For ATP, "One can already affirm that the opposition groups cannot present themselves under the banner of any alliance" as misunderstanding within the opposition has led to the proliferation of "small groups," according to the agency.

Commentary Urges Peace, Dialogue

AB200952 Ndjamena Domestic Service in French 1845 GMT 19 Oct 84

[Station commentary]

[Excerpt] The Chadian Government delegation arrived in Brazzaville yesterday to attend the preparatory meeting for the national reconciliation conference. Prior to his departure from Ndjamena, the leader of the delegation, Foreign Affairs and Cooperation Minister Gouara Lassou, stated: We are going to Brazzaville to meet with our brothers in order to seek with them ways of achieving peace and concord for the reconstruction of Chad.

In a passionate statement, he reaffirmed the position of the Chadian Government, which wants to achieve peace at all costs in the country. The Chadians must transcend their differences and forget their subjective, selfish considerations. Men come and go but Chad is there forever. The country's children must therefore understand this fundamental reality in order to lead our country into the group of developing countries. If the opponents are Chadians, they have to reason like the government, which has relentlessly been striving toward national reconciliation, Mr Lassou said. I am going to Brazzaville with an open mind and desirous of peace, through negotiations and understanding, Foreign Minister Lassou added.

Tomorrow, the 21 members on the government delegation will begin talks aimed at national reconciliation with the representatives of the various opposition groups. It is obvious that resentments and parochial quarrels cannot lead anywhere. What is important is that Chadians should tackle their country's difficulties with a sense of responsibility. Everybody is well aware of the war situation prevailing in Chad. It will therefore be unacceptable for the nationalist children of this martyred country to continue to beat about the bush in their discussions when the future of their country is at stake. It is high time they stop waisting time and engage in a positive dialogue.

The government's position has always been clear, indeed, very clear. All Chadians must get together to heal Chad's wounds. All moves made so far seem to aim at the holding of the Brazzaville conference. This indicates that the conference will actually take place and that Chadians will exert themselves to discuss the essential problems, that is the defense of Chad's unity and greatness.

The failure of last January's conference in Addis Ababa was hoped for by the host country, that is Ethiopia, which is also the spokesman of expansionist Libya. This failure is a bitter lesson from which well-minded Chadians must learn and draw conclusions concerning foreign interference in our domestic affairs.

CAR Airline On Inaugural Flight to Ndjamena

AB192240 Ndjamena Domestic Service in French 1845 GMT 19 Oct 84

[Text] On 6 September 1984, an air agreement signed between the Central African Republic and Chad came into effect. On that day the national airline company, Air Chad, used its F-28 plane in inaugurating the first Ndjamena-Bangui, Bangui-Ndjamena flight. A Chadian delegation was on that flight but the Chadian minister of transportation was already in the CAR capital.

Lol Mahmat Choua signed the CAR-Chad air cooperation agreement on behalf of the Chadian Government. As the inaugural flight of the national company has already taken place, it is now the turn of the CAR company and this is what happened today.

A [name indistinct], The CAR airline company, took the same route, leaving Bangui this morning for our capital where it arrived safely. The CAR delegation consists of the CAR minister of the interior, Lieutenant Colonel Christophe Grelombe, and the head of the delegation on the inaugural flight, Gaston Ambache. The minister of the interior told the press that he also delivered a message from General Andre Kolingba to the Chadian head of state, President El-Hadj Hissein Habre.

CONGO

Chadian Reconciliation Meeting Off to Shakey Start

Opposition Groups Prepare To Meet

AB192105 Paris AFP in French 1647 GMT 19 Oct 84

[Text] Brazzaville, 19 Oct (AFP) — For the first time since the failure last January of the Addis Ababa conference on Chad, the various parties in Chad are expected to meet again tomorrow in Brazzaville in order to prepare a reconciliation conference aimed at putting an end to their 18-year-old conflict.

In an effort to avoid the shortcomings of the OAU-sponsored meeting in the Ethiopian capital, which turned out to be a mere sterile dialogue between the representatives of Mr Habre's government and those of Goukouni Oueddei's Transitional National Union Government, GUNT, the Brazzaville meeting is open to all Chadians, according to the invitation sent out by Congolese President Denis Sassou-Nguesso. In this connection, in addition to the delegations from Ndjamena and Bardai (GUNT headquarters in the extreme north of Chad), most Chadian movements — whether or not they back Mr Habre or Mr Goukouni or whether they reject both of them — are expected in the Congolese capital.

The Ndjamena government's delegation, which consists of 21 members led by Foreign Minister Gouara Lassou, has already left the Chadian capital for Brazzaville.

As for the GUNT delegation, according to information coming from Addis Ababa, it will consist of some 40 people and is getting ready to leave for the Congolese capital. But since the failure of the Addis Ababa meeting, GUNT has experienced many ups and downs.

In Brazzaville it will meet the different dissident groups from the Democratic Revolutionary Council (CDR), which was one of its major components. The partisans of the CDR, headed by Acheick Ibn Oumar, the former GUNT defense minister who broke away from Goukouni Oueddei several weeks ago, will be present. This faction of the CDR has declared in a communique that it would participate in the Brazzaville conference "as a politico-military faction, a signatory to the August 1979 Lagos accords."

But another dissident faction of the CDR, the Committee of Action and Coordination, which was created in Paris in August 1984 by Mahamat Senoussi Khatur and Ouchar Tourgouni, will also be there. A four-member delgation from this faction left for Brazzaville yesterday evening. For Mr Senoussi, "The various Chadian sides must surpass factional and governmental considerations and think first about Chad."

The rally of Patriotic Chadian Forces, founded last August in Ouagadougou by Facho Balaam — another group that defected from the GUNT and which also refuses to join the Ndjamena authorities — is also expected in Brazzaville. In Facho Balaam's opinion, this meeting is "the last chance and must definitely be conclusive." He told AFP recently that, "It does not matter whether the Congolese president welcomes Hissein Habre as the Chadian head of state or not because, once the conference hall doors close, we meet among Chadians on an equal footing."

The other movements, which also think that they could serve as a "mediating force" between Hissein Habre and Goukouni Oueddei, have also expressed their desire to take part in the trip. This is the case of Fidele Moungars Chadian Action for Unity and Socialism and the Chadian group of patriots and democrats led by the former Chadian ambassador to France, Jean Bawoyeu Alingue, who are expected to leave Paris on Saturday for Brazzaville. "We will do all we can," Mr Alingue told AFP, "to reconcile the opinions of everyone." As for Colonel Wadal Abdelkader Kamougue, GUNT vice chairman, he is already in Brazzaville, where reliable sources disclosed on Friday evening that a 10-member Libyan delegation has arrived.

GUNT Refuses To Attend

AB211031 Paris AFP in English 1025 GMT 21 Oct 84

[Text] Brazzaville, Oct 21 (AFP) — The Chadian opposition Transitional Government of National Union [GUNT] said today it would not attend a meeting today to prepare a conference of national reconciliatiion to end Chads civil war.

The Libyan-backed GUNT, which was ousted from Ndjamena by Hissein Habre in 1982 but still holds the northern part of Chad, said only its own delegation and that of the Habre government should take part in the meeting, which should also be attended by a representative of the Organization of African Unity.

The GUNT, led by Goukouni Oueddei, consisted of 11 factions when formed in Lagos in 1979, but some have recently defected to form the Rally of Patriotic Forces. More than 120 negotiators representing various factions met here yesterday for a preliminary session addressed by Congolese President Denis Sassou-Nguesso.

A GUNT statement released today said that the only "parties in conflict" were the GUNT and the FAN (Hissein Habre's Armed Forces of the North faction, now dissolved and incorporated into the National Union for Independence and Revolution [UNIR]), the only political party recognized by Ndjamena. The meeting should also take place "under the aegis of the OAU," the statement said.

Observers said the GUNT stance was a serious and possibly fatal blow to the meeting. The GUNT delegation made it clear yesterday that it did not approve the presence of representatives of other factions opposed to President Habre. The last attempt at reconciliation, at Addis Ababa in January, failed over a question of protocol, in a row over which side should be treated as the legitimate government.

Meeting Postponed at Last Minute

LD201456 Paris International Service in French 1245 GMT 20 Oct 84

[Excerpt] The solemn opening of the Brazzaville preparatory meeting on Chad reconciliation, which was to take place this morning, was postponed until the afternoon. The meeting will be chaired by Congolese President Denis Sassou-Nguesso. The postponment is undoubtedly aimed at enabling a maximum number of participants to be present in Brazzaville for this meeting, which already promises to be quite different from that of Addis Ababa at the beginning of January, a meeting that had come to a sudden end, as you may remember.

This seems so, above all, because this time almost all possible tendencies are present in the Congolese capital and have received assurances of being represented at least in the inaugural session, while the Addis Ababa meeting ended by being a face-to-face meeting between GUNT, Goukouni and Hissein Habre's men.

The 21-member delegation of the Chad Government is led by Foreign Affairs Minister Gouara Lassou and includes no fewer than seven ministers. That of GUNT, which comes from Bardai via Tripoli, numbers 51 members and is led by the GUNT foreign affairs man, Adam Yacoub. To these are added a still unspecified number of groups, including that led by Colonel Kamougoue. In all, 150 Chadians are expected. If one is to believe the Congolese press, a dozen Libyans may also be present.

Meeting To Proceed Despite GUNT

AB211128 Paris AFP in English 1123 GMT 21 Oct 84

[Excerpts] Brazzaville, Oct 21 (AFP) — The Chadian opposition Transitional Government of National Union (GUNT) said today it would not attend a meeting today to prepare a conference of national reconciliation to end Chad's civil war. However, an Ndjamena government delegate countered by saying that his side could come to an accommodation with the other factions present in Brazzaville, excluding the GUNT altogether.

GUNT's representative in Paris, Abderhaman Moussa, said today that it would not object to other factions taking part, as long as they clearly lined up either behind GUNT or behind Mr Habre.

The Ndjamena delegate said GUNT was only harming its own interests, as it only existed in any case because of its Libyan support. But he added that it was up to the Congolese authorities organizing the meeting to decide whether it could go ahead without GUNT.

GUNT Decides To Return

NC211553 Paris AFP in English 1544 GMT 21 Oct 84

[Text] Brazzaville, Oct 21 (AFP) — The opposition Chadian Transitional Government of National Unity (GUNT) announced today that it would meet with representatives of the Ndjamena Government tomorrow for talks to prepare a conference of national reconciliation to end Chad's civil strife.

The GUNT, which earlier today refused to participate in the meeting's first session due to the presence of rival opposition factions, changed its position after receiving assurances from the Congolese authorities organizing the gathering that it would be held under the auspices of the Organization of African Unity (OAU).

GUNT had also demanded the presence of an OAU observer at the talks, which were to pave the way for top-level negotiations on ending Chad's 17-year-old war. A member of the Ndjamena delegation immediately complained that the issue of OAU sponsorship of the talks had never been raised and said his party would "study the new situation."

GUNT Reconsiders, Attending Talks

AB220714 Ouagadougou Domestic Service in French 0630 GMT 22 Oct 84

[Excerpt] The Transitional National Union Government, GUNT, finally announced yesterday that it will participate in today's meeting on reconciliation in Brazzaville. The GUNT was insisting as a precondition for its participation that the meeting be held under the auspices of the OAU and in the presence of one of the OAU's envoys. It also wanted the meeting to be held only between its own delegation and that of Ndjamena.

Yesterday afternoon, Adoum Yacoub, leader of the GUNT delegation stated that he will be present today at the resumption

of the deliberations since the Congolese authorities have assured him that they have been mandated by the current chairman of the OAU, Ethiopian head of state Mengistu Haile Mariam, to organize the meeting. Concerning his demand that the meeting should be held only between his own delegation and that of Ndjamena, Mr Yacoub simply declared that each problem will find a solution at the appropriate time.

Sassou-Nguesso Opens Talks

AB211016 Paris AFP in French 0815 GMT 21 Oct 84

[Text] Brazzaville, 21 Oct (AFP) — Congolese President Denis Sassou-Nguesso, officially opening the preparatory meeting of the Chadian reconciliation conference in Brazzaville on Saturday, exhorted the participants to make use of the "historic opportunity" offered them.

Earlier, the various delegations — that of Ndjamena, led by Foreign Minister Gouara Lassou; then, in the middle of the hall, several factions such as Colonel Abdel Kader Kamougues Peoples Revolutionary Movement; and on the other side, that of the Transitional National Union Government, GUNT, led by Adoum Yacoub, secretary of state for foreign affairs — had all taken their places at the Congress Palace.

Addressing about 120 participants at the meeting with "liberty and frankness," the Congolese president said he was appealing to their "senses" and not to their "passions." "Chadian cadres are the very people who are mainly responsible for the tragedy being experienced by their people," who are "only asking for peace and tranquility," the president observed. "It will be criminal on the part of a single generation to compromise the future of an entire nation," he added. "It is more than ever necessary and urgent to silence the arms," President Sassou-Nguesso declared, expressing the hope that the meeting would end up with a "historic compromise" among Chadians.

While recognizing "the immensity of the task," the head of state stated: "I am leaving you among yourselves, assured of your sense of responsibility." Finally, the Congolese president recalled that the restoration of peace to Chad was prerequisite for a strong and independent central Africa.

The meeting was adjourned 10 minutes after the opening at 1530 GMT, and it is expected to resume on Sunday behind closed doors at 1030 local time [0930 GMT]. Soon after, the delegates, all lodged in the same hotel, continued their informal discussions at the "Mbamou Palace."

GABON

Burkinabe Delegation Discusses Banking, Public Works

AB201448 Paris AFP in French 0941 GMT 20 Oct 84

[Text] Libreville, 20 Oct (AFP) — A Burkina Faso ministerial delegation led by Justin Damo Barro, minister of financial resources, is currently in Libreville for a visit of several days to Gabon.

The delegation, which includes high-ranking officials of the Ministry of Public Works, the "Tabao" (name of a Burkinabe town in the northeast of the country reported to have important mineral deposits) projects and those of the Revolutionary Banking Union (UREBA), was received in audience on Thursday by Gabonese President Omar Bongo.

Mr Barro stated that the talks with the Gabonese authorities centered on the implementation of the cooperation agreements signed between the two countries last July, when Burkinabe President Captain Thomas Sankara visited Gabon. Gabon, he disclosed, intends to contribute to the capital of the UREBA and to supply materials for public works to Burkina. Finally, Mr Barro concluded, the Ouagadougou authorities hope that Gabon will be interested in the "Tabao" project, in view of its experience in the field of mineral exploration and prospecting.

ZAIRE

Mobutu Meets With Kolwezi Armed Forces Groups

AB182220 Kinshasa AZAP in French 1340 GMT 18 Oct 84

[Text] Kolwezi, 17 Oct (AZAP) — Marshal Mobutu Sese Seko began his inspection tour of the Zairian Armed Forces [FAZ] garrisons in Kolwezi, where he arrived on Wednesday at 1020 local time from Kinshasa on board an Air Zaire Boeing 737.

The idea of visiting the troops is not a new one. It germinated in the mind of the FAZ commander in chief when he was touring the regions to thank the party's militants following his reelection as president of the republic in the recent presidential election held on 28 and 29 July 1984. When Marshal Mobutu was visiting Kananga on that occasion, he granted a long audience to students at the officers training school who came to brief him on the problems facing them in student life.

These real problems attracted the head of state's attention. He solved on the spot those problems that seemed to require urgent solution because, of course, soldiers, who are also Zairians, are part and parcel of the large MPR family. It is also true that within the party they constitute a highly specialized body when we consider the mission that is assigned to them, which is protecting the people and their property and also safeguarding the security of the national territory as well as its integrity.

As a specialized body, the FAZ has specific problems that are different than those facing the other sectors. Those problems should be tackled by taking into account the nature of the mission assigned to it. It is in this respect that the MPR founding chairman has embarked upon this tour to meet with the soldier where he lives and to acquaint himself with the soldiers' aspirations and living conditions. This is quite normal, since the authentic Zairian revolution has transformed its soldier from a robot trained by the colonial power to bully the people, into an authentic son of the people, whom he must defend at every moment.

Shortly after his arrival, Marshal Mobutu, who is a champion of direct contact held a 2-hour discussion with the representatives of the officers at the officers' mess of the General Quarries and

Mines Company. During the audience, the officers' representatives freely presented their grievances to the head of state.

In the afternoon, Marshal Mobutu held a series of long discussions with the sergeants, master-sergeants, and warrant officers. All the audiences that the head of state granted to the representatives of officers, noncommissioned officers, corporals, Kamayola division troops, and those of other FAZ units stationed at Kolwezi took place in a frank, military atmosphere as the MPR founding chairman himself wished.

Lome Quadripartite Meeting on Security Ends

AB190650 Lome Domestic Service in French 1900 GMT 18 Oct 84

[Joint communique issued at the end of the second meeting of foreign and interior ministers of Benin, Ghana, Nigeria and Togo on security in the subregion in Lome]

[Text] Joint communique: The second quadripartite meeting of ministers from Benin, Ghana, Nigeria, and Togo was held in Lome 16-18 October 1984. The various delegations were led by: for the People's Republic of Benin, His Excellency Comrade Edward Zodehougan, minister delegate to the president of the People's Republic of Benin in charge of interior, security, territorial administration, head of delegation; for the republic of Ghana, Their Excellencies Dr Obed Asamoah, secretary for foreign affairs and head of delegation, and Kofi Djin, secretary of the interior; for the Federal Republic of Nigeria, His Excellency Brigadier General Magoro, minister of internal affairs and head of delegation; for the Republic of Togo, Their Excellencies Atsu Koffi Amegah, minister of foreign affairs and cooperation, head of delegation, Kpotivi Tevi Djidjogbe Lacle, minister of the interior, and Ayivi Mawuko Adjavon, keeper of the seals and minister of justice.

During their deliberations, which were held in an atmosphere of cordiality, frankness, and mutual understanding, the ministers examined and adopted the documents drawn up by the meeting of experts. These are: 1) an extradition treaty; 2) a criminal police agreement; 3) an agreement on mutual administrative assistance in the fields of customs, trade, and immigration.

The conclusions of the ministerial meeting will be submitted to the heads of state of the People's Republic of Benin, the Republic of Ghana, the Federal Republic of Nigeria, and the Republic of Togo for examination. The positive results of the second quadripartite ministerial meeting is an eloquent example of the determination of our heads of state to do all in their power to fight crime, fraud, counterfeiting, and all kinds of illegal smuggling.

These agreements reassert the common desire of the four countries to seek together ways and means of guaranteeing security and peace in order to strengthen solidarity and relations of good neighborliness existing between them and to further encourage the economic development of the subregion.

At the end of the meeting, the ministers of Benin, Ghana, and Nigeria expressed their sincere thanks to General Gnassingbe Eyadema, founding chairman of the Rally of the Togolese People and president of the Republic, and to the Togolese party and government for the warm and brotherly welcome they received during their stay.

Signed in Lome on 18 October 1984 — in two original copies, one in French and the other in English, both texts identical in content — by His Excellency Comrade Edouard Zodehougan, minister delegate to the president of the People's Republic of Benin in charge of the interior, security, and territorial administration; by His Excellency Dr Obed Asamoah, secretary for foreign affairs, for the Republic of Ghana; by His Excellency Brig Gen Magoro, for the Federal Republic of Nigeria; and by His Excellency Atsu Koffi Amegah, minister of foreign affairs and cooperation, for Togo.

BURKINA

President Sankara Inaugurates Poura Gold Mine

AB191900 Dakar PANA in French 1342 GMT 19 Oct 84

[Text] Ouagadougou, 19 Oct (AIB/PANA) — The Poura gold mine, located 150 km west of the Burkinabe capital, was inaugurated on Thursday by President Thomas Sankara. The mine is being worked by the mining research company, Soremi, which became Soremib [Burkinabe Mining Research Company] on Thursday, in fulfillment of the will of the Burkinabe people, according to President Sankara.

The average gold content of the mine is 13.5 grams of gold per ton and the rate of production is 2 tons of gold per year over 11 years. The capital of the Soremib amounts to 4 billion CFA francs, 60 percent of which is retained by the Burkinabe state and 40 percent by shareholders represented by the French Research Company (20 percent), the Islamic Development Bank (19.98 percent), and the Penaroya Company (0.02 percent). The exploitation of the Poura gold mine required an investment of 17 billion CFA francs. According to estimates, it will bring 5 billion CFA francs to the Bukinabe budget at the present price of gold.

In his opening speech, Captain Sankara appealed to the Burkinabe and foreign workers to work in the spirit of justice. The Burkinabe president denounced all behavior which could make Poura another Soweto because of disparities in salaries for nationals and foreigners. According to President Sankara, from now on the workers of Poura will be free to put their gold in the service of their people. The head of the Burkinabe Government added that the expatriates must therefore understand that as long as they are in Burkina Faso, they must live, dance, sing, laugh, and cry to the rhythm of this country. Captain Sankara further warned the cadres against nepotism and specified that the Poura gold must shine for all Burkinabe.

GHANA

Negotiations Continue on USSR Specialists

AB192245 Accra Domestic Service in English 2000 GMT 19 Oct 84

[Text] Negotiations are going on between Ghana and the Soviet Union to bring in several specialists to train Ghanaians in various fields, including medicine. This was disclosed by the Soviet ambassador to Ghana, Mr Vyacheslav Semenov, when he called on the central region secretary, Lieutnant Colonel E. Badu, at Cape Coast as part of his 2-day tour of the region. The ambassador said already his country awards 150 scholarships every year to Ghanaians to train in the Soviet Union.

Mr Semenov was happy that the traditional bonds of friendship between Ghana and the Soviet Union since the time of Dr Nkrumah is developing under the Provisional National Defense Council. He urged the two countries to make use of the existing

opportunities to further widen and strengthen their relationship. Colonel Badu praised the Soviet Union for the assistance it has been giving Ghana in social, cultural, and economic fields.

PNDC Member Returns From Visits to USSR, U.S.

AB190920 Accra Domestic Service in English 0700 GMT 19 Oct 84

[Text] A member of the PNDC [Provisional National Defense Council], Mr Justice D.F. Annan, has returned home after visiting the Soviet Union, Britain, and the United States. While in New York, the PNDC member addressed the 39th session of the UN General Assembly.

Speaking to newsmen at Kotoka International Airport in Accra, Mr Justice Annan said his visit to the Soviet Union was at the invitation of the Soviet Olympic Committee on an international seminar organized by the International Olympic Committee for Africa, Asia, and Latin American countries. According to Justice Annan, while participants condemned the commercialization of Olympic games, as was the case in the last Olympics in Los Angeles, they called on all countries to attend subsequent Olympiads. This, he said, will avoid the weakening of the Olympic solidarity front. Mr Justice Annan said he held talks with the Soviet authorities on sports development between the two countries and the need for new agreements on sports, including cycling. As an interim measure, Justice Annan hinted that a team of Soviet cyclists are expected in the country soon. Another area of discussions, he said, was on disarmament. The PNDC member said he exchanged views on the judiciary system with the Soviet bench with special reference on laymen involved in the judicial process.

In the United States where the PNDC member addressed the UN General Assembly, Justice Annan noted that Ghana has demonstrated courage and maturity in taking bold decisions at fulfilling IMF demands. This, Justice Annan said, required the support of the superpowers to complement the efforts of the PNDC with meaningful aid programs. Mr Justice Annan disclosed that in Washington he exchanged views with Chester Crocker on the economic situation in the country and the efforts being made by the PNDC to democratize the electoral system in the country. On the forthcoming donors conference on Ghana to be held in Paris, Justice Annan expressed Mr Crocker's assurance of America's participation. The PNDC member also held formal talks with the British minister for African affairs, Mr Rifkind, and the commonwealth secretary general, Shridath Ramphal, on economic issues.

University Announces Reopening, Registration Dates

AB190840 Accra Domestic Service in English 0600 GMT 19 Oct 84

[Text] Dates have been announced for the reopening of the University of Ghana, Legon. A statement issued by the university authorities yesterday said freshmen and JCR [Junior Common Room] executives are to report on Wednesday, 24 October, while continuing students are to report on Friday 26 October. Lectures will begin on Monday, 29 October.

The statement reminds all students that they are required to register at their halls of residence. Freshmen require two passport photographs, 700 cedis in the case of those doing arts subjects, and 900 cedis by science students. Students are further reminded that those who do not register at the appropriate time will neither be permitted to attend lectures nor to take up examinations.

In addition to their usual personal effects, students are advised to take along with them plates,cutlery, bucket, and pillow for their own use. Students are also to note that they will be provided with breakfast and one other meal daily.

Chief Calls for Open Border With Ivory Coast

AB220758 Accra Domestic Service in English 0600 GMT 22 Oct 84

[Text] The Omanhene [paramount chief] of the Aowin Traditional Area, Awulae Bafoe Nkae, has appealed to the government to reopen one of the border posts on the Ghana-Ivory Coast border. He was speaking when a 50-man team from the National Defense Council called on him at Enchi.

He said the traditional area extends to the Ivory Coast. He regretted that the present colonial boundary divides the area. Awulae Nkae commended the Provisional National Defense Council for constructing a modern bridge over the Ankobra River at Jomoro to link the border area with the rest of the country.

The Western regional coordinator of Workers Defense Committees and People's Defense Committees warrant officer, Issa Salifu, praised the chiefs and people of the area for providing offices and accomodation for border guards and customs officials at Adonikrom border post.

GUINEA

UN Delegation Concludes Mission on Returnees

AB191505 Conakry Domestic Service in French 0645 GMT 19 Oct 84

[Text] The deliberations of the high-level meeting between Guinean experts and the UN mission on assistance to repatriated persons, which started on 13 October, ended yesterday at the Palace of Nations under the chairmanship of Richard Haba, minister of economic and financial affairs. At the end of this meeting, 20 projects totalling $35.991 million have been listed for consideration in the following fields: agriculture, rural development, education, road infrastructure, health, and social affairs. Before leaving Conakry yesterday, Mr Anderson, the special envoy of the UN secretary general who was leading the UN delegation, spoke to us about the negotiations, the outcome of which was contained in a report presented yesterday to the prime minister.

[Begin recording] [Anderson] It is a report which will be submitted to the UN General Assembly and which contains a number of projects for the benefit of repatriated persons. You are aware that there are about 60,000 repatriated persons. A number of priority projects have been decided upon which, according to our

estimation, will cost about $36 million. These projects are in the fields of agriculture and rural development, education, health, social affairs, and, finally, road construction.

[Unidentified reporter] What is the refugee situation like in Africa?

[Anderson] The situation is still desperate in many countries. You have repatriated persons here. But one must think especially of the great number of refugees who are outside their countries and who live under extremely difficult conditions there. You can think about the great number of refugees in Sudan, for instance, or in Djibouti, because our next station is Djibouti. Djibouti has a very large number of refugees. It is a small state that has to take care of a large portion of these foreign citizens, Ethiopians in particular. [end recording]

Increase in French Cooperation Expected

AB201344 Paris AFP in French 0834 GMT 20 Oct 84

[Excerpts] Conakry, 20 Oct (AFP) — With the arrival in Conakry on Saturday of the French Minister of Cooperation Christian Nucci, official Guinean circles expect a real increase in Franco-Guinean cooperation.

A few days after the 3 April 1984 coup d'etat, which ended the 26-year reign of President Sekou Toure's regime, the new Guinean leaders had already asked for the strengthening of Franco-Guinean cooperation in all fields.

This cooperation "has now become a fact, a challenge, and a hope," Guinean Economic Affairs Minister Richard Haba told AFP.

Cooperation between the two countries did not really begin until the resumption in 1975 of diplomatic relations, which had been broken 10 years earlier, and especially after President Giscard D'etaing's visit to Guinea in 1978.

One year after this visit — the first by a French head of state — relations took a new turn with the signing of a cultural, scientific, and technical cooperation agreement.

But the former regime, which was expecting more from France, remained disappointed with the level of cooperation and private investments in Guinea, which remained low despite the creation of a joint commission and the installation of the Central Fund for Economic Cooperation, CCCE, in Conakry.

French aid, however, continued to increase: It went from Fr 16.8 million to Fr 41 million in 1984. The aid concerns the energy sector (renovation of electricity network), transportation (construction of a new international airport and the rehabilitation of railroad lines), the telecommunication sector (extension and renovation of network), and the training of personnel.

A new area of cooperation — the educational sector — is also growing rapidly since the coup d'etat. The new leaders have called France to renew the Guinean educational system.

LIBERIA

Professor Sawyer Denies Five-Party Merger Plan

AB200935 Paris AFP in English 0730 GMT 20 Oct 84

[Text] Monrovia, Oct 20 (AFP) — The leader of one of the five Liberian political parties reported last week by the local press to have agreed to join forces denied Friday that there was presently any commitment to a merger.

University Professor Amos Sawyer, chairman of the People's Party (LPP), said his party could not "team up with any groups or parties whose principles and objectives are not known." "Some of the parties we see around here are just a handful of people or even one person, and the nature of their constituency is unknown," Professor Sawyer commented.

The *SUNDAY OBSERVER* had reported that the LPP, the United People's Party, the National Integration Party, the Convention Democratic Party and the People's Liberation Party planned to merge. That would reduce by about a half the number of parties currently intending to contest general elections set for 1985 to mark a return to civilian rule.

Prof Sawyer confirmed that the LPP had attended a meeting with the other four parties, on the basis of his party's broad principles for cooperation. Prof Sawyer was freed a fortnight ago from seven weeks in detention without trial. He was accused, with some army officers and other prominent civilians, of plotting to oust the present government.

Judge Orders Justice Minister's Arrest

AB210846 Paris AFP in English 0708 GMT 21 Oct 84

[Text] Monrovia, Oct 21 (AFP) — A legal tussle between Liberian Justice Minister Jenkins Scott and the courts took a new turn here when a judge ordered Mr Scott's arrest Friday for twice failing to appear to answer contempt charges.

They arise from the minister's release of two Italian businessmen detained by civil court Judge J. Henrique Pearson in connection with a 100,000 dollars debt case. Judge Pearson told AFP that the minister had no legal authority to free prisoners detained by the court, and accused him of trying to provoke conflict between the executive and judicial branches of the government. "Liberia has a good judiciary and would continue to be so if these politicians keep out of the judiciary," the judge commented. He said he was going to "exhaust all efforts" to have Mr Scott arrested.

The minister for his part explained that he had "temporarily" released the businessmen "in the wake of numerous complaints by some individuals." He did not elaborate. The businessmen, Domenico Labate and Eugenio Sartori, have now secured bail pending their trial.

Another contempt charge against the minister remains to be resolved in the Supreme Court, where Chief Justice Emmanuel Gbalazeh summoned the minister a week ago. Mr Scott had

accused judges and lawyers of unprofessional conduct, criminal offences and abuse of office. The entire Liberian judiciary was at "its lowest ebb," he alleged. The justice minister, who is dean of the bar association, apologized to the Supreme Court and, in the legal phrase, "begged for mercy." The court is to give its decision in the coming week.

NIGERIA

Finance Minister on Economy, IMF Loan

AB190950 Lagos International Service in English 0830 GMT 19 Oct 84

[Text] Nigeria's finance minister, Dr Onalapo Soleye, has said that the solution to Nigeria's economic problems is to develop within its limited resources and not on the IMF loan.

He said in Abuja that the IMF loan which Nigeria was negotiating was very small compared with the nation's foreign debt.

The finance minister also remarked that Nigeria would still have problems even if it took the loan without corresponding efforts to look inward and develop, as well as cut unessential imports and spending.

He explained that the IMF now appreciated the country's position on two of the last three conditions for granting the loan, adding that the only condition which the IMF was yet to concede to Nigeria was the readjustment of the naira.

ANGOLA

Presidential Decree Dismisses Foreign Minister

MB220532 Luanda Domestic Service in Portuguese 0500 GMT 22 Oct 84

[Decree from the Office of the President issued in Luanda on 20 October]

[Text] Decree: In the interest of good service and using power conferred upon me by Paragraph d of Article 53 of the constitution:

1. I relieve Comrade Paulo Teixeira Jorge, a member of the MPLA-Labor Party Central Committee, from the post of minister of external affairs, to which he had been appointed by Decree No 73 of 27 November 1976.

2. Pending a new appointment, the head of the government is taking over the portfolio.

The Office of the President of the Republic. Luanda, 20 October 1984. [Signed] Jose Eduardo dos Santos, the president of the republic.

COMOROS

Prime Minister Mroudjae Forms New Government

AB182235 Paris AFP in French 1250 GMT 18 Oct 84

[Text] Moroni, 18 Oct (AFP) — Ali Mroudjae, who was reappointed prime minister of the Comoros on Wednesday by President Abdallah Abderamane, has formed a new Cabinet. It will be recalled that after the reelection of President Abderamane on 30 September, the former government was dissolved on 11 October. Here is the list of the members of the new Comoran Government:

Minister of: State in Charge of Production, Industry, and Crafts — Said Hassane Said Hachim, (former minister of state delegate to the presidency in charge of relations between government and the Federal Assembly); Planning and Environment — Ahmed Ali Mohamed (former minister of agricultural production, industry, and crafts); Interior in Charge of Civil Service, Labor, and Administrative Reform — Mohamed Moumouni (former minister of health and populations);Foreign Affairs and Cooperation — Said Kafe (no change); Justice and Health — Ali Hassan Ali (new); Finance and Budget — Ali Nassor (former minister of finance and economy); National Education — Mohamed Chaher Ben Said Massoundi (former minister of national education, culture, youth and sports);

Secretary of State for: Transport and Tourism — Antoy Abdou (no change); Information, Posts, and Telecommunications — Abdullahi Mbae (former secretary of state for posts and telecommunications); Economy and Commerce — Said Abdou Djaha (new); Culture, Youth, and Sports — Attoumane Assinmakou (new).

MALAWI

Mozambique's Machel Arrives on 5-Day Visit

MB191919 Blantyre Domestic Service in English 1800 GMT 19 Oct 84

[Text] The people of Malawi today gave a very thunderous welcome to the president of the People's Republic of Mozambique, Field Marshal Samora Machel, when he arrived in Blantyre for a 5-day state visit.

In welcoming the Mozambican president on his own behalf and on behalf of the people of Malawi, his excellency the life president ngwazi, Dr Kamuzu Banda, reiterated that the boundaries between Malawi and Mozambique were artificial. He said the boundaries between the two countries were not made by God, and that the people of Malawi and Mozambique were the same. The life president expressed his happiness and that of the people of Malawi for the state visit by the president, Field Marshal Samora Machel.

In his speech, Field Marshal Samora Machel said that his visit to Malawi is designed to strengthen and consolidate the existing friendship between the two states. He added that the visit demonstrated that the people of Mozambique and Malawi were one.

Field Marshal Samora Machel told the people that in fact one of the issues that will be discussed during his visit was how to get rid of the need for passports to travel from Nacala to Malawi, from Beira to Malawi, and from Tete to Malawi. President Field Marshal Samora Machel said the talks would also deal with how the two countries could defend their hard-won freedom and independence, because, he said, the enemies of Malawi were the enemies of Mozambique.

On arrival at Chileka Airport, Field Marshal Samora Machel was given a 21-gun salute and inspected a guard of honor mounted by the 1st Battalion of the Malawi Rifles. Field Marshal Samora Machel and his entourage were also entertained with traditional dances before driving to Sanjika Palace. All along the route from Chileka Airport to Sanjika Palace, President Field Marshal Samora Machel was greeted by thousands upon thousands of Malawians waving placards of welcome.

Meanwhile, a spokesman of the Malawi Congress Party headquarters in Lilongwe has announced that His Excellency Field Marshal Samora Machel will tomorrow visit the Blantyre Civic Center, where he will sign the visitors book at 1050. The announcement said Field Marshal Samora Machel will later fly to Monkey Bay in Mangochi District, where he will visit (Naureko) fisheries to continue his first visit to Malawi.

Machel-Banda Meeting Held

MB200750 Maputo Domestic Service in Portuguese 0400 GMT 20 Oct 84

[Text] Samora Machel, president of the People's Republic of Mozambique, today continues his visit to Malawi. Last night it was expected that Malawian President Kamuzu Banda would

give an official banquet for the Mozambican head of state. Also yesterday, the first day of the visit, Presidents Samora Machel and Kamuzu Banda held a private meeting in Blantyre.

On his arrival in Blantyre, President Samora Machel said that the aim of his visit was strengthening the already existing links and searching for new and more efficient ways of cooperation between Mozambique and Malawi, which are both members of the Southern African Development Coordination Conference. Speaking to cultural groups, which welcomed him at Blantyre Airport, the Mozambican head of state also said that he would discuss with his counterpart the ways of defending the independence of the two countries, which requires great sacrifices of the respective peoples. We are going to study how to eliminate the armed bandits, President Samora Machel stressed.

According to a Radio Mozambique correspondent in Blantyre, certain forces are seeking to obscure relations between Mozambique and Malawi by using the armed bandits. Our correspondent also stresses that in Blantyre the general feeling is that with the visit by President Samora Machel, Mozambique and Malawi have now opened a new period in their relations for a harmonious future of cooperation.

MOZAMBIQUE

Chissano Says Mozambique 'Negotiating Nothing'

LD191952 Lisbon Domestic Service in Portuguese 1900 GMT 19 Oct 84

[Text] After being received in Lisbon by his opposite number Jaime Gama, Mozambican Foreign Minister Joaquim Chissano was categorical when he spoke to reporters on the subject of Renamo [Mozambican National Resistance]:

[Begin Recording] [Chissano] Any negotiations with Renamo are out of the question.

[Reporter] With whom is the Mozambican Government negotiating at present?

[Chissano] We are negotiating nothing.

[Reporter] What, then, is the purpose of the talks currently taking place?

[Chissano] The purpose of the talks is to study the ways and means of assimilating those elements who decide to lay down their arms and become a part of Mozambican society.

'Amnesty for Armed Bandits'

MB200850 Maputo Domestic Service in Portuguese 0800 GMT 20 Oct 84

[Text] Minister of Foreign Affairs Joaquim Chissano returns to Mozambique today after taking part in the 39th session of the UN General Assembly in New York. Speaking to journalists in Lisbon yesterday, Minister Joaquim Chissano reaffirmed that Mozambique will not negotiate with the armed bandits.

Referring to the present talks between the governments of Mozambique and South Africa, our country's minister of foreign affairs reiterated that the Mozambican Government remains resolved to grant an amnesty to the armed bandits who surrender to the authorities with their respective weapons. It was expected that Minister Joaquim Chissano would meet with his Portuguese counterpart Jaime Gama in Lisbon.

Pretoria Negotiations Continuing Despite Comments

MB191639 Maputo Domestic Service in Portuguese 1500 GMT 19 Oct 84

[Text] Negotiations between Mozambique and the Government of South Africa are continuing in Pretoria today with a view to rapidly implementing the Pretoria Declaration of 3 October. The Mozambican delegation, headed by Jacinto Veloso, the minister in the presidency for economic affairs, arrived in the South African capital this morning.

According to AIM, the South African Department of Foreign Affairs yesterday released a communique stating that the process of negotiations would continue, irrespective of the delcarations made by representatives of the armed bandits in Lisbon. The source disclosed that one of those representatives, Evo Fernandes, of Portuguese nationality, who was present at the ceremony of 3 October, declared that he would not return to Pretoria as long as Mozambique failed to satisfy a number of conditions, including the reestablishment of the traditional chiefs system in Mozambique. In Pemba, at the beginning of the week, President Machel reaffirmed that Mozambique will never negotiate with the armed bandits.

Machel Leaves for 5-Day Visit to Malawi

MB190930 Maputo Domestic Service in Portuguese 0900 GMT 19 Oct 84

[Text] President Samora Machel left for Malawi this morning for a 5-day official visit. The Mozambican head of state is accompanied by Mariano Matsinhe, a Political Bureau member and leader of Niassa Province; Colonel General Sebastiao Mabote, a Political Bureau member and chief of the FPLM General Staff; and Mario Machungo, a Political Bureau member and leader of Zambezia Province. The presidential delegation also includes Joaquim de Carvalho, minister of foreign trade, and a number of national directors. The visit is at the invitation of the president of Malawi, Dr Hastings Kamuzu Banda, and is the first visit by the Mozambican head of state to Malawi.

NAMIBIA

Half of SWAPO Forces Reported Fighting Savimbi

MB211110 Johannesburg SUNDAY EXPRESS in English 21 Oct 84 p 5

[By Jean Le May, political correspondent]

[Text] Half SWAPO's guerrilla forces in Angola are deployed against Mr Jonas Savimbi's UNITA, according to information

given to the *SUNDAY EXPRESS*. This means that while the SWAPO guerrillas are being cleared from southern Angola by the joint Angolan/southern African monitoring commission, [JMC] they are still infiltrating from the north into the area controlled by the JMC. And this is happening with the knowledge, if not the blessing, of the Angolan Government.

In effect, the MPLA government of Angola, which this week accused South Africa of stalling in the settlement of the Namibian issue, is itself slowing down the settlement through its ambivalence towards SWAPO.

According to the South African Department of Foreign Affairs, there were only 23 violations of the Lusaka Agreement between March 1 and May 2, while the JMC moved southwards from Cuvelai to Ongiva. But since the JMC arrrived at Ongiva on May 2 there have been 53 violations of which South Africa was responsible for only three. This is evidence of fresh guerrilla movement into an area already cleared by the JMC.

Under the Lusaka Agreement South Africa undertook to withdraw its troops from southern Angola and the Angolans in turn agreed to clear the area of all foreign troops, including Cubans and SWAPO guerrillas. The Cubans are now said to be deployed well to the north, along the Namibe railway line. Moreover, President Eduardo dos Santos this week said in Luanda in an interview with the WASHINGTON POST that he was prepared to accept the principle of Cuban withdrawal. "But this cannot happen," he said, "while South African forces still occupy Angola, and Namibia is used as a base of attack against Angola." But he then back-tracked by adding that he agreed to Cuban withdrawal "in terms of UN Resolution 435."

The South Africans see this as a setback, since they are known to hold the view that a firm undertaking to send the Cubans home, and not necessarily their physical removal from Angola, would be grounds enough for South Africa to start implementing the resoution.

Earlier this year an arrangement, brokered again by the Americans, was made that there would be a programme to scale down South African troops in Namibia to 12,000, then 8,000, then 1,500 where the number would be held, monitored by the United Nations Transitional Assistance Group (UNTAG). But by the time the troops were down to 1,500 the Cubans would have to be totally withdrawn.

President dos Santos's latest statement, according to thinking in the South African Department of Foreign Affairs, appears to indicate that hardliners in the Angolan Government led by Foreign Minister Paolo Jorge have forced the president to back off the earlier agreement with the Americans. This could have been one of the subjects discussed between President dos Santos and Mr Frank Wisner, U.S. deputy secretary of state for African affairs, when Mr Wisner visited Luanda this week. The MPLA government is known to be desperate for recognition by the United States, and with the offer to withdraw the Cubans this could become a reality.

The sudden flurry of American diplomatic activity in southern Africa in the past month could be a signal that President Ronald Reagan is seeking a dramatic move for disclosure in his final television confrontation with the Democratic presidential candidate, Mr Walter Mondale, tonight.

But there are other problems for the Americans to face, and the biggest of these are UNITA and the future of SWAPO. There are many countries in Africa where UNITA is regarded as legitimate: Mr Savimbi himself claims legitimacy in terms of the Treaty of Alvor by which Portugal agreed in 1975 to withdraw from Angola, leaving a joint government in Luanda consisting of MPLA, FNLA and UNITA representatives.

A condition of the Portuguese withdrawal was that full and free elections would be held, but this did not happen. MPLA precipitated a civil war and UNITA withdrew to Huambo, to set up a provisional capital. In 1975, the Cubans arrived at the MPLA's invitation, ostensibly to fight against "foreign invaders" (South Africa) but also help crush UNITA.

This, then, is the stalemate. President dos Santos said this week that while grassroots UNITA supporters would be assured an amnesty, Mr Savimbi and other leaders would "face certain death" if they returned to Luanda. But the South Africans — and probably the Americans, although they do not admit it — are anxious for some rapprochmement between MPLA and UNITA, believing that there will be no peace in Angola and consequently in Namibia until there is peace in Angola.

A spokesman for the U.S. State Department carefully sidestepped the issue this week. Asked to react to UNITA's contention that by employing Cubans the MPLA government was reverting to a form of colonialism, he said: "The factions in Angola must settle this between themselves. This is an internal Angolan affair."

SOUTH AFRICA

Durban 3 Still Seek Support; Britain Tires of Issue

Mondale, Jackson Asked for Help

MB191425 Umtata Capital Radio in English
1300 GMT 19 Oct 84

[Text] The consulate drama could soon become a campaign issue in the American presidential election. The fugitives' spokesperson, Farouk Meer, says he has asked Democratic candidate Walter Mondale to raise the matter during the campaign, and has been told by Mondale's aides that they will take the issue up. Meer says he has also approached Rev Jesse Jackson, who has also promised to raise the matter. He says it is time that governments like the United States and Britain, who, in his words, only use words to criticize apartheid, should back them up with action.

UK Issues Statement on Consulate

MB191925 Johannesburg Domestic Service in English
1700 GMT 19 Oct 84

[Excerpts] The British Government has told the three activists in the British Consulate in Durban that the situation is becoming

intolerable and that it will not countenance any demands or conditions for their departure. Reacting in London to the statement issued by the men yesterday, a Foreign Office spokesman said the British Government had made it clear from the beginning that, while for humanitarian reasons the men would not be required to leave against their will, it was hoped that they would do so voluntarily.

He said that since 8 October, when the Natal Supreme Court had rejected the application for the invalidation of their detention orders, the remaining three had been strongly advised to leave. This was because the increasing disruption of the Consulate's work was becoming intolerable.

The British Government now wished to emphasize that it could not countenance any demands from the three, nor could it accept any conditions for their departure. The spokesman said Britain had always said it would not act as an intermediary with the South African Government, as it would be improper to intervene in the legal processes of South Africa.

It had also stressed that the use of the Consulate premises to make political statements was unacceptable. After the clandestine television interview on 7 October, the British Government had sought an assurance that there would be no repetition of such incidents. Such an assurance had not been forthcoming. The latest statement represented a further abuse of Consulate premises, and the spokesman said the British Government took a very grave view of it.

In Pretoria, the minister of foreign affairs, Mr Pik Botha, has reacted to the statement by the British Government, which indicates tolerance of the lingering situation in the Durban consulate. He said the British comments and observations called for consideration in the Coventry magistrate's court on Monday, where the four South Africans were due to appear. Mr Botha said it would be inappropriate for him to comment at this stage on what would be said in court on behalf of the South African Government.

Le Grange Rejects Detainee's Conditions

MB220900 Johannesburg SAPA in English
0851 GMT 22 Oct 84

[Text] Pretoria, Oct 22, SAPA — The three conditions laid down last Thursday by the "Durban Three" — one of which would have to be accepted by the South African Government before they were prepared to leave the British Consulate in Durban — were rejected in Pretoria today by the minister of law and order, Mr Louis le Grange.

Mr le Grange said the government had considered the fugitive's demands over the weekend but that he "cannot exercise (my) powers for a purpose not contemplated by the act, for example to give effect to the demands of the three. "The minister of law and order can act only in accordance with the provisions of the relevant legislation. To do otherwise would be to act 'ultra vires' the powers conferred upon him by that legislation."

One of the three conditions laid down by the Durban Three was that the South African Government guarantee they receive passports and be allowed to appear before the Special Committee on Apartheid at the United Nations and that they not be prevented from returning to South Africa to "continue the struggle for peace, justice, and freedom for all South Africans."

Mr le Grange said in response to this that "the issue of a passport cannot be considered until applications are received in the form prescribed by regulation. "A decision in this regard is taken in the light of all the circumstances of each particular case. The existence of a detention notice in terms of the Internal Security Act is no doubt a circumstance which would be relevant in the consideration of the application for the passport."

The two other conditions laid down by the Durban Three were that all Section 28 notices (in terms of the Internal Security Act) be withdrawn, or, that Mr le Grange remove all names placed on the consolidated list in terms of Section B16 arising out of Section 28 detentions and agreed not to invoke Section 34 of the act to ban attorneys from practising. Also, that the minister provide proper reasons to enable the three and their collagues in the Pietermaritzburg prison to make representations aimed at persuading the government to withdraw all notices.

When the three's conditions were released simutlatenously at press conferences in Durban, London, and New York on Thursday, Mr le Grange declined to comment, saying he had not officially received them. "The demands... released to the press on Thursday, were received on Friday, and were considered by the government over the weekend," he said today.

Gatherings Banned, Whites Barred To Curb Unrest

Meetings Banned in Sharpeville

MB191952 Johannesburg SAPA in English
1948 GMT 19 Oct 84

[Text] Johannesburg, Oct 19, SAPA — Gatherings other than church services in Sharpeville this weekend have been outlawed by the chief magistrate of Vereeniging. The chief magistrate, Mr Hendrik Killian, said in a statement, relayed to SAPA by the South African Police, that public gatherings in the township this weekend are banned in the interest of peace.

Church services are excepted from the ban, Mr Killian's announcement said. The ban is in force from 10 am Saturday until 10am Monday. It is being imposed under Section 64 (1)(B) of the Internal Security Act of 1982 (Act 74 of 1982)

Black Activists Banned in Pietersburg

MB200705 Johannesburg Domestic Service in English
0500 GMT 20 Oct 84

[Text] A ban on meetings of all black power organizations in the Pietersburg Magisterial District came into effect at 0600 this morning and will continue until Monday morning at 0600. The ban was decreed by the chief magistrate at Pietersburg, Mr (van Dyk), in terms of the 1982 Internal Security Act. The ban also

applies to meetings at the Kratzenstein Mission Station. A similar ban was placed on meetings in the Seshego and Thaba Mufo districts in Lebowa. Strict measures will be in force in these areas and offenders will be prosecuted.

Whites Banned From Soweto

MB200727 Umtata Capital Radio in English
0600 GMT 20 Oct 84

[Text] Whites have been banned from Soweto until further notice. The West Rand Development Board says permits will no longer be issued and the ban will apply to everyone, not only journalists. Township Manager J.H. (van Biljon) says anyone wanting a permit should phone the board once a week to check if the restrictions have been lifted. He has refused to give any reasons for the move, which has been criticized by the president of the Southern African Society of Journalists, (Pat Siddely). She says the announcement is causing her great concern as she sees it as a further attempt to rob the public of its right to know what is going on. She says not giving them information is likely, in her words, to encourage rumors, sow suspicion, and cause alarm.

Gasoline Bomb Thrown in Soweto; No Injuries

MB210730 Johannesburg SAPA in English
0724 GMT 21 Oct 84

[Text] Pretoria, Oct 21, SAPA — A petrol bomb was thrown at three parked buses in Ikwezi in Soweto early this morning, the Public Relations Division of the SA Police said in Pretoria today. All three vehicles were destroyed, the spokesman said in a brief statement. The spokesman added that the buses were empty and there were no injuries.

Peace Pact Parties at Odds but Meetings Continue

Renamo Absent From Talks

MB191528 Johannesburg Domestic Service in Afrikaans
1400 GMT 19 Oct 84

[Text] Negotiations between South Africa and Mozambique are continuing in Pretoria, in order to achieve a rapid implementation of the Declaration of Pretoria. The Mozambique Resistance Movement, Renamo, was not represented at the talks, as the leader of its mission, Dr Evo Fernandes, is in Europe.

However, our correspondent in Lisbon reports that he has not abandoned the negotiations. During a stopover in the Portuguese capital on his way to Geneva, Dr Fernandes told our correspondent that the Renamo delegation would definitely be returning to the Pretoria talks, but not on the scheduled date. He said Renamo wanted the issue of credentials clearly defined, and the status of the movement unequivocally accepted by the Mozambican Government before the resumption of the talks.

Commission 'To Meet Again Soon'

MB191642 Johannesburg Domestic Service in English
1600 GMT 19 Oct 84

[Text] The peace commission, which came into being after the Declaration of Pretoria, is to meet again soon. This is apparent from a joint statement issued in Pretoria by the chairman of the commission, the deputy minister of foreign affairs, Mr Louis Nel, and the Mozambican representative, Major General Veloso, after 2 days of talks in the city. It said the talks dealt with the implementation of the Declaration of Pretoria. The Mozambican National Resistance Movement, RENAMO, was not represented at the talks, as the leader of its delegation, Dr Evo Fernandes, is in Europe.

Nel Says Talks Continuing

MB200645 Maputo Domestic Service in Portuguese
0400 GMT 20 Oct 84

[Text] Delegations from Mozambique and South Africa, which met in the South African capital yesterday, issued a joint press statement that says that a meeting of the technical commission formed after the Pretoria Declaration of 3 October will be held shortly. The statement says that yesterday's meeting is part of the process of implementing the Pretoria Declaration.

The second point of the statement says that Louis Nel, chairman of the commission, will soon convene a meeting of the entire commission, which includes representatives of organized banditry. The statement was issued at about 2000 yesterday, and afterward the government delegations of Mozambique and South Africa continued their meeting.

SWAZILAND

Swazi Citizen Deported to RSA, Arrested by Police

MB210936 Johannesburg CITY PRESS in English
21 Oct 84 p 1

[By Desmond Blow and CP Correspondent]

[Text] Swaziland "deported" one of its own citizens this week — into the hands of the South African Security Police. But before former student leader Bhabhalazi Bulunga was taken across the border, he made desperate appeals from his prison cell at Big Bend to the University of Swaziland, the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees in Mbabane, the Council of Swaziland Churches, the World Council of Churches and the OAU to "save his life".

He admitted he had associated with the ANC for two years and said that if he was taken to South Africa, he would "obviously be prosecuted and tortured". His unlawful deportation is expected to cause an international furore. Mr Bulunga's friends claim he was "deported" because the Swazi authorities considered him a "troublemaker with ANC connections," and the South African Security Police were anxious to interrogate him.

Mr Bulunga was not taken to court to be tried as an illegal immigrant, but was sent out of the country on the orders of Police Commissioner Majaji Simelane. Mr Simelane is reported to have said: "Mr Bulunga was not deported. He was sent home to South Africa to his parents, and the South Africans welcomed him."

A police spokesman confirmed that Mr Bulunga was detained last Monday — the day he crossed the border — and was being held under security laws. A spokesman for the Swaziland Department of Interior, who would be responsible for any deportation, said that he knew nothing about Mr Bulunga's deportation.

On Friday, students from the University of Swaziland protested in the streets of Manzini against Mr Bulunga's unlawful deportation. The students were scattered by baton-wielding riot squad policemen. Several were injured and seven were arrested in the melee, which caused a traffic jam during the busy lunch hour.

Chanting "Save Bulunga from death," and singing revolutionary songs, the students carried placards which read "We love this land," "We love Bulunga," "He must be freed," and "What has he done?." The demonstrators were peaceful, until they were charged by the police.

Mr Bulunga's relatives said while they were preparing affidavits to prove he was a Swazi, they were told he was still in Swaziland. "We were only told several days after he was detained in South Africa that he had been sent to Hluhluwe," said one. "This puzzled us as his home is in Mhlaheni in Swaziland."

In his desperate appeals to local and world organisations, Mr Bulunga said: "My father, Phelakwakhe Ozi Bulunga, is a Swazi citizen under Chief Ntunaka Nduna Ngwaquakane. My mother is a Zulu and stays at Hluhluwe, Natal. I appeal for your humanitarian help to save me from this deportation to South Africa. In the past two years I had contact with the ANC and cannot be taken to South Africa because obviously I will be prosecuted and tortured.

"While I may not be a refugee, I cannot go to South Africa because of my association with the ANC. I will accept any terms put to me if I could be allowed to remain in Swaziland. In SA there is only my mother, Rebecca Gumbi Hluwe Mduku. In Swaziland I have my father and my grandfather Ngimba Bulunga, my uncle Jacob Bulunga and my wife's parents. Your help will save my life. BE Bulunga."